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TOWN GOVERNMENT

Select board picks a new administrator after public interviews

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

MONSON — Jennifer Wolowicz can remove the “interim” from her title.

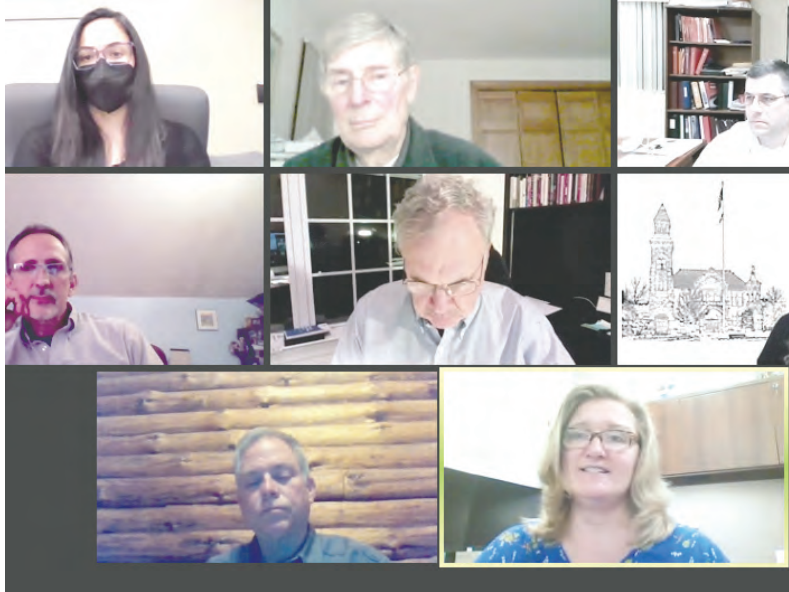
After serving as interim Monson Town Administrator for the past two months, the Chicopee resident was selected from a field of three candidates in contention for the permanent position after a vote by the select board Tuesday night. The vote to offer Wolowicz the position was 2-1 after nearly three hours of questioning followed by a brief discussion by the select board members in a live-streamed meeting.

The position became available after former administrator Evan Brassard resigned to take the same

position with the town of Grafton.

The other candidates were Anna Levine of Wilbraham, a member of that town’s finance committee, and Arthur Robert of Natick, who serves as that town’s director of Community and Economic Development. Levine is an attorney with experience serving not-for-profits. She also ran for the Wilbraham select board several years ago. Robert previously served as director of Community and Economic Development for Framingham and is a retired U.S. Army officer.

Candidates stayed in the meeting’s waiting room and were called in individually to be interviewed. Each interview lasted about 45 minutes. Bernard Lynch of Community Paradigm Associates, the firm



handling the search for the town, praised all three candidates. Robert, he said, brings “great management skills and experience. He understands municipal government as a department head,” he said.

While Levine “doesn’t have the municipal management experience so much,” Lynch said, “one thing intriguing is her non-profit experi-

ence and the intellectual curiosity she’s displayed.” About Wolowicz, Lynch said “clearly (she’s) handled the job here in Monson and you’ve seen her up close. I think all three are very good.”

After the final candidate – Wolowicz – left the meeting, Selectwoman Mary Hull suggested tabling a vote.

“I don’t feel comfortable making a decision tonight without going back and talking (more) to candidates,” she said.

Board Chair Richard Smith said they should at least go ahead with a discussion. Selectman Ed Harrison seemed eager to get to a vote.

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WALES

Lawmakers get up-close look at pyrrhotite-afflicted homes

WALES — Congressman Richard E. Neal joined state Sen. Anne Gobi and state Rep. Brian Ashe in Wales last week for a tour of two local homes where the foundation is crumbling due to the presence of pyrrhotite in the concrete aggregate.

Pyrrhotite is a rare iron-sulfide mineral that expands, deteriorates, and cracks when exposed to water and oxygen until it inevitably fails. It is estimated that as many as 1500 homes or more in Massachusetts may have had their foundations poured with the defective material.

Neal, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means said he wants to bring federal assistance to affected homeowners.

“Tens of thousands of homeowners in Connecticut and Massachusetts have crumbling foundations through no fault of their own,” Neal said.

“I am thankful to Senator Gobi and Representative Ashe for their leadership on the state level, and I continue to work with my colleagues on the federal level to provide relief to those who have compromised foundations.”

The congressman said he’s optimistic targeted legislation that failed to advance last year has a better outlook in 2021.

“Last year in the House, we were able to pass two very important provisions in H.R. 2 that would provide relief through Community Development Block Grant funding and a federal casualty loss tax deduction,” Neal said.

“While that legislation was stalled in the Senate, my colleagues in Connecticut – Congressman Joe Courtney and Congressman John Larson – and I continue to be supportive of a fix and we are working together to ensure it is ready for inclusion in upcoming legislation.”

Gobi and Ashe served as co-chairs on the legislative Special Commission assigned to study the issue last session.

“I thank the homeowners who were so willing to share their story with us and to allow us to see the damage to their foundations,” Gobi said.

“We know that state and feder-

WALES | page 3



Party Like It’s 1959



Courtesy photos

Brimfield Auction Acres is welcoming more than 250 dealers May 12-15.

Brimfield Acres ready for 1st show since lockdowns began

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — Yes, there will be a spring flea market and antiques season.

It will be a truncated version because of pandemic restrictions, but it’s undeniably a step in the direction of life returning to normal after more than a year of lockdowns and a persistently high level of COVID-19 infections. Although most of the fields are waiting for the July portion of the season to open, the spring edition will have a decidedly classic flavor.

“The town has received word that of the 23 fields that regularly open for the Brimfield Antique Shows, there will be one opening in May for vendors,” Brimfield Selectman Mike Doyle said.

“Auction Acres – which was the field that started the show back in 1959 – will be open from Wednesday, May 12, through Saturday, May 15, and will host over 250 vendors,” Doyle said.

“Additionally, we have three antique shops that during a regular show host vendors in parking areas and lawns, who will still be open for antiquing, although no external vendors will be present. Finally, we have two local restaurants that usually have vendors outside as well who will be open for business during the shows, although specific times may vary,

and will only be open for food, no vendors.”

At this time last year, the shows were canceled as the number of COVID cases soared. Nationwide, more than half a million people died because of the virus.

Kate Corriveau, who co-owns Brimfield Auction Acres with her husband Rusty, said they felt a sense of obligation in deciding to open in May despite limits on crowd size and other changes related to guidelines intended to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus.

“Our deciding factor was the responsibility to the dealers,” Kate Corriveau said.

“There were shows opening in other states and Brimfield needs to stay relevant in the trade and have at least one venue to be able

to showcase their merchandise that has been shut down for over a year. So if we could do it, we had an obligation to our predecessors of the field – Gordon Reid and his daughters. We had been anticipating – hoping – that we would be able to open and planned for different scenarios based on the state’s guidelines for different venues throughout the state. So when the guidelines were presented, we were ready. Our field is one of the largest with points of entry easy to monitor.”

A notable dealer

Corriveau is particularly enthused to welcome one of the best-known dealers in the antiques and

FLEA MARKET | page 7

CLASS OF '21



The Monson Athletic Booster Association partnered with a marketing firm to help get the community together in an effort to honor the Class of 2021.

Boosters rally community for a senior send-off

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON – It’s a sign of the times.

High schools everywhere are preparing for some form of graduation and looking for ways to send their seniors off with a smile after enduring unprecedented time.

The Monson Athletic Boosters Club is rallying support for the Class of 2021 of Monson High School ahead of its June 4 graduation. The boosters want to turn the town Mustang blue and white with personalized signs and banners so anywhere Monson seniors go, they’ll see these tributes to their resilience.

“The seniors have had a rough year,” Karen DeVries, vice president of the Monson Athletic Booster Association, said.

“They’re finally going back, and I really want them to have a great graduation. Businesses, fam-

SENIORS | page 7

COMMUNITY

Hitchcock cleanup project signals new era of engagement

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — When Cindy Skowrya slips on her work gloves and grabs her shears next week, she will be part of something that for her truly is a labor of love.

Skowrya, executive director at Hitchcock Free Academy, will help lead a community effort to spruce up the tennis and basketball courts at the community center.

“I grew up playing tennis on those courts!” Skowrya said.

“It means a lot to me, personally, and I know there are a lot of

people in the community who look forward to using our facilities.”

Some volunteers have already signed up for the April 24 project, which begins at 9 a.m. (the rain date is April 25 at noon), but Skowrya said the more the merrier. She praises Ken Hawk of Hawk’s Lawncare and Landscaping for “spearheading” the effort, which has a sign-up and donations page on Flipcause, a fundraising platform for non-profits like Hitchcock.

Volunteers are needed to cut brush and small trees, rake leaves, and do some general cleanup work.

Drinks and snacks will be provided “along with lots of encouragement and enthusiasm!” Skowrya said.

More engagement

The upcoming cleanup is just a first step to a new era of community outreach and engagement, Skowrya said. She wants to form a committee to help assess Hitchcock’s many assets and how they can best be used by the community. That includes 17 acres of scenic property behind the building in which Skowrya sees vast potential



Courtesy photos

The community is coming together for a project to spruce up the tennis and basketball courts at Hitchcock Free Academy on April 24.

HITCHCOCK | page 7

Pet of the Week



ELLIOT

This is Elliot of Palmer with his brother Boston. No sibling rivalry here!

We feature your pets here and on Facebook every week. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

Last day to file for Palmer offices

Anyone interested in running for any of the townwide offices that will be decided by the June 8 election can begin filing their nomination papers.

One seat each will be available for the following positions:

Councilor at Large/District 2; Councilor/District 3 Councilor/Planning Board and School Committee. Each term is three years.

Candidates must be registered to vote in Palmer by May 19 to be eligible. There is no filing fee and papers must be returned by April 15.

To obtain the nomination papers and for more information, call the Town Clerk at 283-2608.



Happy Birthday Rhett!



Courtesy photo
This is four generations of Rollet men celebrating the first birthday of Timothy Rollet's son, Rhett. Shown here (from left) are Matt, Timothy (holding Rhett), Willy, and Richard Rollet, who served as Palmer town building inspector for several years. Submitted by Sarah Beauchemin.

We want to help you celebrate!!

Please send us your Birthday, Anniversary and Wedding announcements.
Send us a short announcement no more than 40 words and a photo if possible.

We will publish them in our Car Parade Section!
mharrison@turley.com

Public hearings scheduled on additional Quaboag Connector and PVTa shuttle rides

WARE/PALMER — The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, in partnership with the Quaboag Connector, is proposing to increase service on the Ware-Palmer route, and will hold a public hearing via Zoom to hear from users and the general public on April 21, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., and a second hearing the same day from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

PVTa will provide circulator service in Palmer with the Quaboag Connector providing circulator service in Ware. In addition, Quaboag is proposing the addition of a Belchertown Ware Shuttle that will provide additional service to the town of Ware.

These changes provide the following benefits:

- Times of trips to Springfield Union Station change to a morning and a midday trip.

◊ Increase the number of round trips from one to two to the Eastfield Mall. A morning and afternoon trip will be provided.

Both trips will continue beyond the Eastfield Mall to the Springfield Wal-Mart.

◊ An additional trip will be added to Three Rivers so there are four trips instead of three trips. All four trips will start at the Palmer Big Y, follow Park Street to the Dollar General, return via South Main Street and continue to Three Rivers and Bondsville along the current route.

◊ There will also be additional service with four daily trips to Bondsville.

◊ There will be an increase in the number of round trips from four to seven between Palmer Big Y and Ware Wal-Mart.

◊ There will be an increase in round trips from four to nine trips a day between Ware Wal-Mart and Ware Center.

◊ The proposed Belchertown Spencer Shuttle provides

as much service in Ware as the circulator, but provides more comprehensive service within the community.

◊ There will still be five daily trips in Ware. There will be the same-day microtransit service for connections to the fixed route as well as same-day service for certain on-demand trips.

The meetings will be conducted using the GoToMeeting virtual conferencing software. The morning meeting may be accessed at GoToMeeting, with meeting identification number 603356589 or by calling 1-786-535-3211 and using the same access code.

The afternoon meeting can be accessed at GoToMeeting, with meeting identification number 409974293 or by calling 1-646-749-3122, using the same access code.

Plant sale May 8 in Grieve Park

MONSON — Monson Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 8, at Dave Grieve Park Gazebo the corner of Main and Lincoln streets across from Memorial Hall starting at 9 a.m.

The rain date is May 15.

A wide selection of perennials in addition to wildflowers, vegetables, shrubs, house plants, bulbs and herbs will be available. There will also be an assortment of special gift planters for Mother's Day gifts.

Masks are required.

The plants come from members' gardens, and members will be available to answer questions about the plants they enjoy. Proceeds from the sale are used for local community projects such as the downtown plantings, holiday greens, and a scholarship.

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DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Celebrate the Class of 2021

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Please help us to celebrate these students, they are missing out on so much due to COVID-19.

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Other terms to be announced at the sale...

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Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

WALES I from page 1

al assistance is needed and having Congressman Neal join us and knowing his work on the issue and continuing support is so necessary and appreciated.”

Ashe said, “To have Chairman Neal with us today as we visited the Hamers and the Milanases in Wales, speaks volumes as to the depth of the issue with crumbling foundations in western and central Massachusetts. Working in unison with Chairman Neal, Senator Gobi, myself and all of the local communities involved is paramount in educating residents and assisting those in need. There is a long road ahead, but we’re making progress as we continue to learn from our neighbors in Connecticut and as more homeowners here come forward.”

The visit comes in the wake of Gobi filing omnibus legislation aimed at addressing the issue in Massachusetts this session. The bill filed by the senator, SD. 1688, “An Act Relative to Crumbling Concrete Foundations,” targets a number of the primary concerns raised by the Special Commission. They include establishing tax abatements for affected homeowners, requiring the disclosure of foundation repairs for those looking to sell their home, and creating new standards for quarry operators and concrete producers.

The pyrrhotite issue has been studied extensively and addressed by the Connecticut legislature, which moved to develop a captive insurance company funded by bonding and a surcharge on homeowners’ insurance policies in order to help the thousands of residents that have been affected. In Massachusetts the full scope of this issue is still unknown.

A reimbursement program remains in place for costs associated with visual and core testing of residential home foundations, having been secured by Gobi in the FY19 budget debate and additional funds added last session. That program allows homeowners to be reimbursed at a rate of 100% for visual testing conducted by a licensed professional engineer up to \$400, and a rate of 75% for core sample testing up to \$5,000.

While the presence of pyrrhotite indicates the potential for concrete deterioration, its existence alone does not necessarily cause it. At this time there is no minimum level of pyrrhotite that is deemed acceptable for use, and homes with small amount of pyrrhotite (less than 0.3%) can still experience crumbling foundations.

The cracking starts small and may take more than 10 years to over 30 years to appear. As the concrete deteriorates it often becomes structurally unsound, and the damage is irreversible. The only permanent solution at this time to fully replace the impacted foundation with a new foundation that does not contain pyrrhotite.

For more information on the legislation or pyrrhotite issue, email Gobi’s office at Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov.

Artists invited to enter Monson Arts Council exhibit

MONSON — Monson Arts Council’s 27th annual Art Exhibition and Sale, “The Colors of Change,” will take place in the House of Art, 200 Main Street, Monson, and as an on-line Gallery from May 15-30.

Artists in all media are invited to enter work in the juried show for an opportunity to show their work and to share in \$4,500 in awards. All entries will be digital only. Online guidelines and entry forms may be found at monsonartscouncil.org and may be used digitally or downloaded and mailed. Prizes include a special \$250 award this year. The Edward and Shirley Lastoff Memorial Prize is sponsored and selected by Linda Lastoff, an artist and art organizer who is offering the award to honor her parents.

Other prizes include Best of Show - Selected by Jurors - \$1000

Categories awards - Selected by the jurors in each of the 4 categories: Painting, Photography, Graphic Arts (drawing and printmaking) and Multi-dimensional (including sculpture and fiber arts).

- First Prize of \$500
- Second Prize of \$100
- President’s Choice - \$300 - Selected by the MSB President, Dan Moriarty

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Bank - a major sponsor of the exhibition.

- Outstanding Monson Artist - \$300 - Selected by our Jurors

Sponsored by Moulton Insurance Agency, Inc. and an anonymous donor

- The Edward and Shirley Lastoff Memorial Prize - \$250

Sponsored and selected by Linda Lastoff

- Committee Choice - \$200 - Selected by Committee Ballot

- Emerging Artist Award - \$50 Gift Certificate - Selected by our Jurors

For an artist who has not previously exhibited in a juried show.

Sponsored by Giclée of New England, Inc.

- People’s Choice - Voted by ballot by Visitors to the show

Hand made ceramic mug - sponsored by Juliet Rose Gallery.

Jurors for the exhibit are:

Cynthia Consentino of Buckland, a ceramic artist who received a MFA from University of Massachusetts and has been recipient of awards by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, American Craft Council, The Society of Arts and Crafts, Berkshire Taconic and

The Blanche E. Colman Artist Awards.

Erik Gehring, a freelance photographer who specializes in trees and natural landscapes. He is the Education Coordinator at the Hyde Park Art Association, and a past President of the Boston Camera Club. Erik. He also teaches at the Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts in Boston.

Holly S. Murray, a graduate of Syracuse University, with a B.F.A. in painting and printmaking. She holds a M.F.A. from the University of Massachusetts, where she studied ceramics and photography. Her art is concerned with cultural and social issues. Her nationally traveling show “On the Home Front”, an installation documented family violence. An outgrowth of that work explored issues of aging within American popular culture.

The show will be open noon- 5 p.m. May 15-16, 22-23 and 29-30. All Covid 19 precautions will be followed. There will be light refreshments in a lawn tent on May 15.

Complete information and entry guidelines: monsonartscouncil.org. For more information call coordinator David Dupuis at 413-813-5770.



Courtesy photo

Frank White of West Brookfield won First Prize in the Multi-Dimensional Category in MAC’s 2019 Juried Art Exhibit for his carved wood painted sculpture titled “Their Future is in Our Hands.” The 2020 show had to be cancelled due to Covid 19. This year’s show will be held at House of Art, 200 Main Street in Monson in May.

Compost dates/times in Palmer

The following schedule will provide dates the compost area off of Old Warren Road in Palmer will be opened to allow town residents to drop off grass clippings and leaves during spring and summer months. Place lawn debris in brown paper bags, (no plastic bags allowed) and do not leave bags up against the locked gate. The town asks that you also practice social distancing.

The compost area off of Old Warren Road will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, April 10-11 only. The rest of the schedule is:

Date	Time
Saturday, April 17, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, April 18, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, April 24, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, April 25, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, May 1, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 2, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, May 8, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 9, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, May 15, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 16, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, May 22, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 23, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, June 19, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, June 20, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, July 17, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, July 18, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Variety of virtual support groups for those facing cancer available

During a cancer journey patients and their families often benefit from the support of others. Virtual support groups are now being facilitated by Camille St.Onge, LICSW and oncology social worker.

The groups are offered with the support of funds raised by the Walk of Champions event or fundraisers.

“Offering support groups virtually brings people together regardless of their location,” St. Onge said.

“Sharing concerns with a support group can be a beneficial way for people facing cancer to get the help they need to cope with the physical and emotional concerns that arise during and after a cancer diagnosis. While support and self-help groups can vary greatly, groups share one thing in common, they are a place where people can share personal stories, express emotions, and be heard in an atmosphere of

acceptance, understanding, and encouragement.

The support groups are designed to help patients, their families and caregivers cope with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis.

Virtual Support Group offered include:

General Cancer Support Group: 1st Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Partners in Caregiving: 2nd Wednesday of each month, 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Expressive Writing through Cancer, 3rd Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Breast Cancer Support Group, 4th Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All meetings are held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. For more information contact St.Onge at 413-239-7239 or costomagin@gmail.com.

Everyone invited to Aquacise class

The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club at 91 Claudia’s Way, Ludlow, has brought back Aquacise for residents of Hampden County communities, including Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Brimfield, Holland and Wales. Aquacise will be offered 8-8:45 a.m. Mondays

and Wednesdays. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength.

To reserve a spot visit ludwbgc.org and click on Adult Programs, or call Matt Thompson at 413-583-2072, ext. 122. For

updates on the facility, register on the website to receive Club emails.

The Club continues to make health and safety its No. 1 priority to ensure all visitors who enter the building have a clean and safe environment.

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Three Rivers Fire District NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION May 18, 2021

The Annual Election of the Three Rivers Fire District will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at the Three Rivers Fire Station, 50 Springfield Street, Three Rivers. Voting hours will be from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and is open to registered voters residing in the Fire District.

FOR RENT

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POSTPONEMENT:
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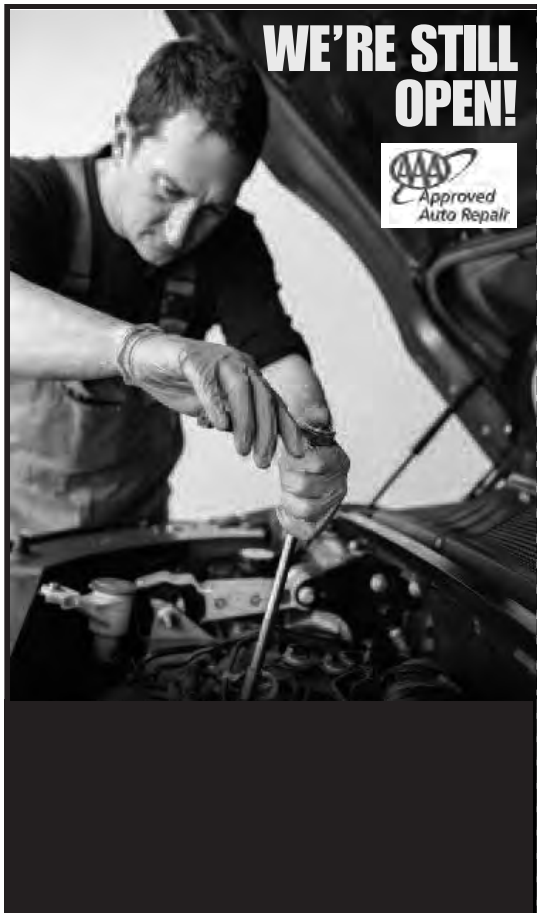
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Viewpoints

MY FRONTLINE STORY:

Taking our best shot

By Leanne Vallee



Courtesy photo

Leanne Vallee, PA-C is a physician assistant with BMP-Quabbin Pediatrics - Ware

I have been a physician assistant for 10 years, starting my career in physiatry and sports medicine before transitioning to pediatric primary care. I graduated from Springfield College with a bachelor's degree in athletic training and then returned the following semester to work on my master's degree in exercise science and sports studies with a concentration in exercise physiology. I chose a career as a physician assistant because I wanted to treat not only athletes, but the general population as well.

As a physician assistant I get to be part of a health care team with one goal, treat our patients and help them grow into wonderful people.

I chose to specialize in sports medicine out of a love of teamwork, athletics and competition with one's self to always strive to be a better version of who you are today. Prior to my career as a physician assistant, I was a certified athletic trainer at a local NCAA Division II college, reaching the role of interim head athletic trainer prior to leaving for my graduate studies program in physician assistant studies. I worked closely with the football, ice hockey and baseball teams while an athletic trainer, but was also involved in covering all the athletics at the college. As part of my role as interim head athletic trainer, I had the pleasure of helping coordinate athletic training services for the NCAA Division II Elite Eight basketball tournament when it was held in Springfield at the MassMutual Center.

Remote learning changed a lot about how student-athletes used their bodies. A tip I would share would be to plan a return to being active or to start being active by gradually increasing your activity each day and every week. A gradual return to activity, both in time and intensity, helps to wake up those muscles that haven't had a lot of demand placed on them get them back into shape.

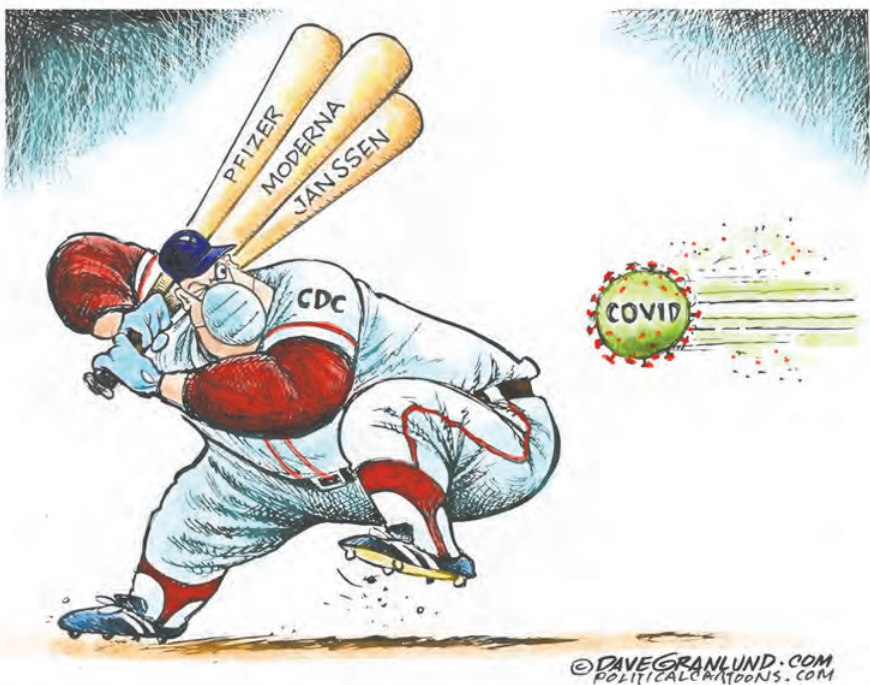
It's a challenge for everyone to work during COVID19, but the vast amount of scientific knowledge coming out will continue to enhance our health for years to come. I think it is fascinating that we as a community, not just a medical community, but the general population, are seeing the scientific process play out in real time.

At Quabbin Pediatrics we are striving each day to keep our patients safe. We have a separate dedicated respiratory clinic available so we can treat our patients in-person while maintaining our current clinic space so we can continue to see our youngest patients. I often say to my patients' parents that I love working in pediatrics because I get to laugh every day! There's a uniqueness about pediatrics that allows you into the lives of your patients and you get to watch them grow from infants to children and adolescents and then into early adulthood. It's a wonderful gift to watch a patient grow and one I'm thankful for every day.

Working on the front lines of a primary care practice during the pandemic has impacted my life greatly. The most challenging thing about working during COVID19 has been the fear of the unknown and trying our best to keep our patients and families healthy and safe. My children are acutely aware that I am treating patients during this pandemic and when I walk through the door in the evening they ask if I am doing OK. My boys have learned to save their welcome home hugs until I have changed out of my scrubs and into my "home clothes."

I encourage anyone who is medically eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to do so. When the community as a whole comes together to protect themselves and others, we can emerge from this pandemic stronger for it. When we protect ourselves with the vaccine, we are also providing protection for others who have not received the vaccine yet.

I look forward to a time when we will all be vaccinated and can live our life to the fullest.



A Sunday sojourn, garden style

I enjoyed getting out into the garden last weekend, making my way around various parts of the yard that required attention. First stop, the perennial borders. As much as I love raking leaves, I raked the same gardens last month. It is always discouraging when you have to repeat something that you already did. Blame it on the massive oak tree in front of my house that just recently shed its leaves!

Why does it hold on to some of its leaves throughout the winter, anyway? I read some interesting hypotheses recently, explaining that the oak and its cousin the beech, are either evolutionarily delayed, or quite ahead of their time, depending on how you look at it. You see, we have the evergreens and we have deciduous trees. Then we have these trees in the middle. But what benefit could marcescence (holding on to dead leaves) be to the tree? One theory suggests that dead leaves covering the lower part of the tree protect vulnerable buds from deer browsing. Another says that the old leaves offer the buds measurable cold protection. I found yet two more explanations targeting moisture conservation, implying that the leaves funnel snow (i.e. water) to the base of the tree and that when the dead leaves fall they are the start of a moisture retentive mulch positioned exactly where the tree needs it the most, around the drip line. Very cool, indeed. Yet another thing to awe about creation, as if there weren't enough already!

While I was outside I took advantage of impending rain, and decided that there was no time like the present to lime and top dress my garlic with compost. This meant visiting the compost pile, and you guessed it, raking off a layer of oak leaves before giving it a few good turns, revealing the "black gold" beneath, teaming with worms. It's really neat to think that all those banana peels, egg shells, orange rinds and the like mixed with said leaves and grass clipping made this food for my garden. I filled a couple of buckets worth and headed over to the row of garlic. I was actually shocked to see that

it had sprouted a good five inches in the 10 days or so I had been out of the garden. Better to get this task accomplished almost late than never, I guess. I pulled back the mulch, laid a layer of compost, then reset the mulch and sprinkled the whole bed with a bit of lime. I really

should get my soil tested, but I remember reading something years ago that always said never to think about growing alliums in anything but sweet soil, so there you go. This is the second year that I planted my garlic, laid a layer of cardboard on top and then mulched the whole shebang. It is off to another great start, so it seems. The cardboard helps prevent weeds and conserve moisture.

I also gave some lime to my lupines. It's what I was taught to do a million years ago and still do it, even though some sources say it is not needed. There is one bed, closer to my house that has been growing lupines far longer than the 10 years we've been here. In year two they flower, drop their seed and new plants germinate, sometimes with very little fan fare and usually in a spot where you least expect it or would desire it for perfect placement. Whether it is too close to another plant, too close to the front of the border or somewhere else not part of the plan, no worries. The volunteer always gets to stay because if you move it, chances are you will sever the tap root and lose the plant. And a June without lupines is too sad to risk it. The only time I have ever attempted moving a lupine seedling is when it has only its first or second true leaf, and then very, very carefully.

Have fun with wherever you are led on your next afternoon in the garden!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Can I still suspend my Social Security benefits?

By Russell Gloor

Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: Is it still possible to suspend Social Security benefits for a time? And, if so, how often? Signed: Curious Senior

Dear Curious Senior: If you have already reached your full retirement age and are receiving Social Security benefits, which you claimed earlier, you can voluntarily suspend your benefits to earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) and get a higher benefit amount when your payments are resumed. While your benefit payments are suspended, you will earn an additional .67% for each full month of suspension (8% per full year of suspension). If you wish to do so, you can suspend them until you are 70-years-old, after which you will no longer receive Delayed Retirement Credits, and your benefit will have reached maximum.

At age 70, Social Security will automatically restart your benefit at the higher amount, as appropriate for the number of DRCs you earned while suspended. If you prefer or need the money sooner, you can request that your benefit be restarted earlier than age 70.

You can voluntarily suspend and restart benefits more than once if necessary, but the process requires some lead time to stop/restart benefits, and there are other important factors to consider. If you suspend your personal Social Security retirement benefit now to gain a

higher payment amount later, while you are suspended no other benefits based on your record (such as a spousal or other dependent benefits) will be paid. And, if you currently have your Medicare premium deducted from your Social Security benefit, suspending your Social Security benefits will require you to make alternate arrangements for direct payment of your Medicare premium(s). You would need to pay your Medicare premium via mail or by direct withdrawal from your bank account, or by charging a credit/debit card. If you decide to suspend your Social Security payments, you will need to contact Social Security directly at 1-800-772-1213 (or call your local SS office) to do so. When requesting your benefit suspension, you can also make arrangements through Social Security to pay your Medicare premium separately.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit the website amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory, or email ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Letters to the Editor

Amvets event a success

On behalf of the members of the Sons of Amvets, Squadron 74 of Three Rivers please accept our heartfelt thanks for your support of our recent fund raising event. Through your support and efforts we were successful in reaching out to a large audience allowing us to reach our goal of serving over 200 meals.

The proceeds of our event will be used in an appropriate manner to assist our local veterans in need. Once again, we "Thank You" for your time, efforts and support.

George L. Robichaud
Sons of Amvets
Squadron 74

I'm voting for Karen

As a resident of Monson, I would like to take this opportunity to express why Karen Nothe-Valley has my vote for the select board.

Politics, as of late has exposed many deficiencies in the candidates up for election. I have, over the course of many months gotten to know Karen, and when we get to speaking about Monson there is a genuine sincerity and love for this town that shines through. My wife and I are raising our six-year-old daughter here, and it is refreshing speaking to a candidate who also chose to raise her family here. She has ideas that will benefit Monson in the here and now with regards to the "American Rescue Plan," and how the money can and will be used to help businesses, and households that were impacted by Covid-19. She is also looking to the future of Monson through the implementation of modernization and beautification projects.

One thing I have come to know about Karen Nothe-Valley is that she not only cares about this town, but she cares about everyone living here. With her election to the selectboard, Monson's residents will not only have an official who will actively listen, they will also have a strong voice.

Paul Kida
Monson

Comments on Congress

Why reforming the filibuster matters

By Lee H. Hamilton

Guest columnist

As Washington turns its attention to infrastructure and other matters of policy, the Senate filibuster isn't commanding quite the same headlines as it did a few weeks back. But that's only because the issue is percolating behind the scenes. At some point, it will return to the limelight.

And when it does, you should understand what's at stake. Because as obscure as it seems, it actually goes to the heart of how we operate as a democracy.

The key point to remember is that as the country's population has shifted, a growing number of senators have come to represent a shrinking portion of Americans. In the House, this doesn't matter as much, since districts are apportioned by population. But in the Senate, current rules require 60 senators to agree to move a measure forward, with certain exceptions. This means that 41 senators can block most legislation, so in theory, the senators coming from the 21 smallest states—who together represent less than 12 percent of the US population—can keep the nation's agenda from moving forward.

It's hard to believe the country's founders would think this makes sense. And it's certainly a far cry from government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

In particular, it means that legislative initiatives that appear to have great popular support—including infrastructure spending, certain gun control measures, a higher minimum wage, even a legitimate path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants—will face tough sledding in the Senate. This is because it is remarkably easy for the leader of the Senate minority, Republican Mitch McConnell, to muster the 41 votes he needs simply to block legislation from moving forward. It's a silent and powerful parliamentary move: Without Americans as a whole or senators' constituents being any the wiser, bills die without coming up for a vote and there are no fingerprints on the murder weapon.

Now, the Senate wasn't designed to be like the House, and there's a lot to be said for maintaining rules that slow legislation down and ensure that the majority can't simply get what it wants without negotiating. But the key word is "negotiating"—when the filibuster is used simply to ensure that a president and elected majority can't get a bill considered, it's become something else. So while there appears to be little appetite in the Senate for ending the filibuster outright, there's strong incentive to explore alternatives.

These would be in keeping with a long history of filibuster reforms in the Senate: budget reconciliation starting in the 1970s allowed many bills related to taxing and spending to move forward with a simple majority; in 1975, the Senate changed the number of votes needed to move a bill forward from 67 to 60; and more recently, the Senate carved out exemptions on confirmation votes. In other words, there is precedent for change.

The options include expanding the breadth of bills that are exempt from the 60-vote requirement to move forward. Or the Senate could require more members (right now it's just one) to force a so-called "cloture" vote, which brings the filibuster into play. Or it could reduce the 60-vote requirement, either for all bills or for particular kinds. Or, as some senators seem to favor, it could revive the requirement that senators intent on blocking legislation actually must get up and

Election letters to the editor welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The *Journal Register*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The *Journal Register*.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
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Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com**

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

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Prevent mulch fires by safely disposing of smoking materials

REGION – State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey is reminding residents and businesses that it is important to always dispose of smoking materials safely, including near mulch.

“Every spring, people spruce up their properties with fresh mulch and firefighters respond to many fires started by cigarettes tossed into mulch. Mulch is combustible and can easily catch fire,” he said. “We are asking smokers to dispose of their smoking materials responsibly in order to prevent fires. Don’t toss cigarette butts into mulch or a pile of dried leaves.”



Proper receptacles

“Businesses and homeowners that are sprucing up their landscaping should also provide and maintain safe receptacles for disposing of smoking materials so that people won’t start fires by tossing cigarettes into the mulch,” said Ostroskey. “Metal containers with sand are best.”

Report smoldering

“If you see a smoldering mulch bed, please call 9-1-1 so the fire department can make sure it is truly extinguished. Mulch can smolder for a long time before erupting into flames,” said Ostroskey.

Fires that start on the exterior of buildings are usually not detected early. By the time smoke and heat enters the building to trigger a fire or smoke alarm or sprinkler system, the fire is already large. Fortunately, many mulch fires are noticed and extinguished before spreading to a building or motor vehicle.

Know the rules

Fire officials want to remind building owners, property managers, nurseries and landscaping companies about the proper placement and storage of mulch in order to prevent these types of fires. Ostroskey said, “It’s important for mulch storage piles to be 30 feet apart to keep fires from spreading.”

Keep 18 inches away

Here are some tips for property managers and building owners on how to prevent mulch fires:

- Keep wood mulch 18 inches away from combustible exteriors of buildings such as wood or vinyl siding and decks. Do not put it right up against the building.
- Use materials such as pea stone or crushed rock for the first 18 inches as a barrier around the foundation of the building and around gas and electrical meters.

- Provide proper receptacles for smoking material disposal.

State fire code

The Comprehensive Fire Safety Code (527 CMR 1.00, section 10.13.10.4.1) prohibits the new application of mulch within 18” around combustible exteriors of buildings, such as wood or vinyl but not brick or concrete. Residential buildings with six units or less are exempted from this regulation, but all homeowners may also wish to adopt these safety practices. The regulation applies to all other buildings including commercial properties.

Storage and manufacturing

The regulation (527 CMR 1.00, sections 31.3.6.3.2.2 & 31.3.6.4.3) also has safety requirements for those who store or manufacture mulch. It limits the size of mulch piles and requires a distance of 30 feet between piles and 25 feet from the lot line. Large piles of mulch can easily spontaneously combust with all the heat they generate, so it is important to be vigilant and employ good housekeeping. The distance between piles prevents a fire from easily spreading to another pile or to a building.

Storage permits

Permits are required from the fire department wherever more than 300 cubic yards of mulch is produced or stored.

Education

There is a Mulch FireFactor, an educational handout in both English and Spanish on mulch fire safety and the Fire Code, on the Department of Fire Service’s website. It provides information to educate the community on the regulation. Building managers, landscapers and companies that store and sell mulch can use it to educate their staff.

Major mulch fires

In the past five years (2016 – 2020), there have been 199 fires that started in mulch but spread to buildings. These 199 fires caused five civilian injuries, 10 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$3.1 million.

While most mulch fires are caught early before spreading to buildings, there have been a number of large-loss mulch fires in Massachusetts.

On the afternoon of July 10, 2018, the Boston Fire Department responded to a fire in a six-unit apartment building started by a discarded cigarette in a mulch bed. The front porch ignited and flames rapidly climbed up the exterior of the building caused an estimated \$250,000 in damage. No one was injured at this fire and smoke alarms alerted the occupants. The building did have sprinklers inside but the fire was on the outside, not in the area protected by them.

The most notable mulch fire in Massachusetts occurred in May 2015 in a large Arlington apartment complex. One man died in the fire started by smoking materials discarded in a mulch bed, which then spread to the building. Thirty-six apartments and six cars were destroyed. The building had no sprinklers and the estimated dollar loss was \$6.7 million.

In April 2012, improperly discarded smoking materials ignited mulch outside an assisted living center in Braintree. The fire forced many older adults to evacuate in the early morning hours. Several suffered smoke inhalation injuries.

In May 2008, a cigarette ignited a mulch fire at a Peabody apartment complex. It caused \$6.7 million in damage to the building, displaced 750 people temporarily and 36 permanently.

Staying a step ahead of scammers

BBB warns against posting photos of unedited vaccine cards

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

REGION – As the COVID-19 pandemic lingers, online scams are evolving, as schemes become more intricate and difficult to avoid. The Better Business Bureau reports that online scams are on the rise.

“They play on fear, they play on uncertainty and what do we have this year? We have a lot of that. It’s perfect for scammers,” said Nancy Cahalen, President/CEO of the BBB Serving Central and Western Mass. and Northeastern Conn., which operates of Worcester.

In 2020, the BBB’s Scam Tracker technology tracked more than 46,000 scams nationally, a 24.9% increase in the number reported in 2019. Online scams played a significant role in the upsurge.

Cahalen encourages residents to rely solely on trusted sources for information. Rather than look to social media, Cahalen recommends seeking COVID-19-related guidance from the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Go to the CDC. Don’t learn about the vaccine from Facebook. It’s really important that people find a trusted site, stick with it and get their information there,” said Cahalen, adding that municipal websites ending in ‘.gov’ are also reliable sources.

Receiving an unexpected email or text message should also warrant suspicion. When presented with a link to an unknown site, never click on it.

“To get an email or text message out of the blue, that should seem a little off. They’ll probably tell you to click on a link to verify information – that’s a common threat as well. Don’t ever do that. The government already has your information, they don’t need it from you. Don’t believe in any of that,” said Cahalen.

At all stages of the pandemic, online scammers have profited off a wide range of schemes. Some request payments, offering priority access to be vaccinated. Others collect a victim’s personal information and use it to steal his or her stimulus money.

Other scammers mail out fake checks that look identical to gov-



From BBB New England

Nancy Cahalen, President/CEO of the BBB Serving Central and Western Mass. and Northeastern Conn., is on the front line in the fight against online scammers.

ernment-issued paper stimulus checks. Once the victim deposits his or her actual check, the scammer makes contact, claiming to be the government, demanding that some of the money be returned.

Over the past several months, a popular social media trend has popularized posting pictures of vaccination cards, which, unedited, can reveal important personal details.

“Some people just don’t know when to stop sharing,” said Cahalen. “I don’t think they realize that a lot of this personal information can be used to steal their identity. Don’t be posting a picture of the actual card.”

Not all prevalent online scams relate directly to the pandemic. Many scammers post pictures of animals, fabricate a backstory, including the animal’s need for a new home, and then request a below market price and an online payment for the animal.

“A large number of scams pull at the heart strings. Don’t think with your heart. Think with your head,” said Cahalen. “They’ve moved on from puppies to shelter dogs. Sometimes, you’ll hear people say, ‘Don’t buy a puppy; get a dog from the shelter,’ so the scammers hear this too and say, ‘Oh, we can make some money there.’”

Cahalen reported that a local resident was recently robbed of

\$25,000, after attempting to purchase a Maine Coon Cat, a rare breed, online.

More and more people are becoming susceptible to online scams, and it isn’t because they are naïve or particularly vulnerable. Cahalen believes that scammers are simply improving and complicating their ruses at an alarming rate.

The BBB’s Scam Tracker can be accessed at BBB.org/Scam-tracker. The technology collects reports of scams, documenting a myriad of schemes that affect residents all throughout the country.

“We ask consumers if they think they’ve been scammed, or there was an attempt to scam them, to report it. All that information helps law enforcement, the media and other consumers. We call those consumers who report these scams our ‘Scam Tracker heroes’ because they’re sharing valuable information that will do good,” said Cahalen.

Data collected during 2020 revealed that residents aged 18-25 are more vulnerable to online scams than most other age demographics, further supporting the theory that anyone can fall victim to a ruse.

For more information pertaining to scams, visit bbb.org.

Dalton Zbierski can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

HCC union wants Gob. Baker to ‘stop Holyoke brush-off’

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College faculty and staff union has asked Gov. Charlie Baker to appoint a Holyoke resident to the college Board of Trustees. Currently, no one from Holyoke sits on the board that oversees Holyoke Community College.

The college chapter of the Massachusetts Community College Council says the vacancy created by the resignation of Jose Delgado of Springfield, who was recently appointed to head Baker’s Western Massachusetts office, creates an opportunity to end the snub of

Holyoke.

“We are concerned about representation from the community we serve and that founded and has nurtured the college for 75 years. Although the surrounding communities are well represented on the board, and we even have a trustee who lives in Connecticut, Holyoke must not be ignored,” Chapter President Laura Schlegel said in a letter to the governor.

“We are all too aware of what can happen without local representation and awareness of the issues in our community,” Schlegel said citing the col-

lege’s off-again, on-again plans to gut its English as a Second Language program and ESL tutoring services, as well as recurring proposals to cut back accounting classes.

“The shrinking of our career services program in the midst of high unemployment, was completed this spring over our protests,” she said. “Many of our students are attending HCC as a pathway to the middle class, and these subject areas are essential.”

“We believe that what works in Ohio or Kentucky or even Concord is not always

what Holyoke needs,” the union said.

Holyoke has long been a Gateway City. Before the pandemic, students from more than 200 countries sought walk-in writing tutoring during the school year, and the state has classified the community college as a Hispanic Serving Institution. Being fluent in writing, as well as spoken, English is a necessity for those eager to advance above a beginning-level job or pursue a four-year degree and graduate education. In the same way, accounting and analysis of the financials form

the basis of a successful business plan.

“Career planning and job services are not only what our students want. They are what our students and our city need as our economy recovers from the pandemic,” Schlegel said. “Placing a Holyoke resident on the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees is essential in making Holyoke and our community more than pretty lettering on a sign at the entrance to the college.”

HAMILTON | from page 4

talk about it—which would have some drawbacks but at least would make it clear who’s standing in the way.

The Senate’s rules are a big reason we have a Congress that struggles to get things done—and a big reason our democracy seems to be hamstrung. I believe wholeheartedly in representative democracy, and in not trying to shortcut it or to restrict it. Proposals in front of Congress should be able to get a full debate and an up-or-down vote in which Americans’ elected representatives make clear where they stand. That’s how we hold them accountable and how legislative bodies go about the hard work of finding broadly acceptable solutions to difficult challenges. The filibuster allows a small group of them to sidestep all that.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished

Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

COMMITTEE TO ELECT KAREN NOTHE-VALLEY FOR MONSON SELECTBOARD

cordially invites interested Monson residents to an ice cream social to be held on Friday, April 23, 2021 at Westview Farms Creamery, 109 East Hill Rd., Monson MA from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. A variety of ice cream flavors will be served. Come and enjoy the beautiful sunset view and ice cream paid for by the committee and get to know more about Karen’s candidacy and passion for positive change. In the meantime, Karen Nothe-Valley may be reached at karenformonsonbos@yahoo.com or on her Facebook page, “Karen Nothe-Valley for Monson Board of Selectmen”.

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.

Thanks to our wonderful “friends,” volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:

Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am - 4pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader’s Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

journalregister.turley.com

Maggie May Campbell



passed away
April 13th
and will be
deeply missed by
Derek, Kathy &
friend Lori

Public Auction

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28TH STARTING AT 11:00 A.M.

MORTGAGEE’S SALES OF REAL ESTATE
• PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS •

±16,117 S/F
**2-STORY
MIXED USE BUILDING**
WITH WALK-OUT BASEMENT
“BASEMENT BEING USED AS A BOWLING ALLEY”

1440 - 1446 North Main Street PALMER, MA

To be Sold on the Premises

FEATURES

LAND: ±16,117 S/F of Land • ±88’ Frontage on North Main Street
• ±184’ Frontage on Foundry Street • Public Water & Sewer
• Paved Parking for ±16 Vehicles • Zoned: Village Center District (VCI)
• Assessor’s Parcel: Map 57, Parcel 8 •

IMPROVEMENTS: 2-Story Mixed Use Commercial Building
• ±17,254 S/F of Total Gross Building Area • Each Unit: Propane Heat
• Separately Metered • Brick, Masonry & T1-11 Exterior • Flat Roof •

FIRST FLOOR: (2) Retail Units (Store Fronts) •

• Unit 1: ±3,500 SF of Area • Open Space • Office • Carpeted Floors •

• Unit 2: ±1,500 SF of Area • Carpeted Floors • (2) Restrooms •

SECOND FLOOR: Apartment: Total of (5) Rooms, (2) Bedrooms & (1) Bath •

BASEMENT: ±5,300 S/F • Carpeted Floors (2) Restrooms •

★ PRESENTLY USED AN 8-LANE BOWLING ALLEY ★

SALE PER ORDER OF MORTGAGEE
ATTORNEY JONATHAN C. SAPIRSTEIN
Of The Firm Of Sapirstein & Sapirstein, P.C., 1331 Main Street, Springfield, MA
Attorney For Mortgagee

TERMS OF SALE:
\$20,000.00 Deposit Is Required At Time Of Auction In Cash Or Certified Funds.

5% Buyer’s Premium Applies.

Other Terms To Be Announced At Time Of Sale.

Inspections: Saturday, April 24th – 10:00 A.M. To 2:00 P.M.
& Morning Of Sale – 9:00 A.M. To 11:00 A.M.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THIS AUCTION:
WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO ENSURE OUR STAFF AND CUSTOMERS ARE SAFE AS POSSIBLE. SO WE MAY TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO MAINTAIN HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS, THE COVID19 STILL REMAINS A POTENTIAL RISK IN ANY PERMITTED PUBLIC GATHERING. ALL AUCTION SALE ATTENDEES SHOULD REMAIN MINDFUL TO OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND ALL OTHER CDC AND GOVERNMENT HEALTH CAUTIONS. WE CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY VIOLATIONS BY ANY PERSONS, OR RISK OF CONTRADICTION IN ANY EVENT PLEASE MAINTAIN A DISTANCE BETWEEN YOURSELF AND OTHERS. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS OR HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO HAS, OR HAVE TRAVELED OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE LAST MONTH. MASKS REQUIRED.

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Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department responded to 321 calls and made six arrests or summons for arrest from April 6-13. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:

Saturday, April 10

Keith Allen Jones, 64, of 12 Old Farm Rd., Palmer, was arrested at 11:14 p.m., on North Main Street in Palmer, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

MONSON

The Monson Police Department responded to four arrests or summons for arrest April 4-10. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:

Sunday, April 4

Michael Quest Jr. Torres, of 76 Bairdcrest Rd., Springfield, was arrested at 1:26 a.m., on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs; negligent operation of a motor vehicle, a motor vehicle lights violation and a marked lanes violation.

Wednesday, April 7

Mary Curran-Lima, 59, of 9 Silva St., Monson, was arrested at 3:50 p.m., on charges of violation of a harassment order and resisting arrest.

Michael John Fusco, 34, of 99 Lang St., Springfield, was arrested at 5:10 p.m., on charges of use of electronic device while operating a motor vehicle (first offence); operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license and an WMS Warrant.

Fire Logs

PALMER FIRED DEPT.

The Palmer Fire Department responded to 14 calls April 7-12:

On Wednesday, April 7, at 8:29 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Sykes Street. The department returned to service at 8:53 a.m.

On Wednesday, April 7, at 11:13 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with an injury on West Ware Street. The department returned to service at 12:15 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 7, at 4:44 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire Maxwell Road in Monson. The department returned to service at 6:50 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 7, at 9:34 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Robinson Street. The department returned to service at 9:52 p.m.

On Friday, April 9, at 4:29 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Squire Street. The department returned to service at 4:45 a.m.

On Friday, April 9, at 2:51 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Main Street. The department returned to service at 3:06 p.m.

On Friday, April 9, at 6:16 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Cabot Street. The department returned to service at 6:50 p.m.

On Saturday, April 10, at 3:22 a.m., the department responded to a call requesting medical assistance on Old Farm Road. The department returned to service at 3:39 a.m.

On Saturday, April 10, at 3:47 a.m., the department responded to a call requesting medical assistance on Wright Street. The department returned to service at 4:29 a.m.

On Saturday, April 10, at 9:14 a.m., the department responded to a call re-

questing medical assistance on Country Lane. The department returned to service at 9:44 a.m.

On Saturday, April 10, at 2:09 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Main Street. The department returned to service at 2:27 p.m.

On Saturday, April 10, at 8:05 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on River Street. The department returned to service at 8:34 p.m.

On Sunday April 11, at 8:32 a.m., the department responded to a call requesting medical assistance on Pine Street. The department returned to service at 9:17 a.m.

On Monday, April 12, at 3:38 a.m., the department responded to a structure fire on Orchard Street. The department returned to service at 4:12 a.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to 11 calls April 6-12.

On Tuesday, April 6, at 9:46 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Wright Street. The department returned to service at 10:03 a.m.

On Tuesday, April 6, at 10:02 a.m., the department provided mutual aid to the Palmer Fire Department. The department returned to service at 11:30 a.m.

On Wednesday, April 7, at 8:00 a.m., the department responded to a call requesting a smoke investigation on Bridge Street. The department returned to service at 8:07 a.m.

On Wednesday, April 7, at 8:35 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Sykes Street. The department returned to service at 8:42 a.m.

On Wednesday, April 7, at 9:06 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Springfield Street. The

department returned to service at 10:12 a.m.

On Thursday, April 8, at 1:39 p.m., the department responded to an investigation of smoke in a residence on Calkins Road. The department returned to service at 2:10 p.m.

On Thursday, April 8, 3:50 p.m., the department responded to a fire in a trash container on Bridge Street. The department returned to service at 6:45 p.m.

On Thursday, April 8, at 7:37 p.m., the department responded to a call requesting a smoke investigation on Main Street. The department returned to service at 7:43 p.m.

On Saturday, April 10, at 1:58 p.m. the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Bourne Street. The department returned to service at 2:18 p.m.

On Sunday, April 11, at 6:35 p.m., the department responded to a call requesting public assistance on Main Street. The department returned to service at 6:50 p.m.

On Monday, April 12, at 3:36 a.m., the department provided mutual aid to the Palmer Fire Department. The department returned to service at 3:41 a.m.

BONDSDVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to five calls April 6-12:

On Tuesday, April 6, at 9:27 a.m., the department provided mutual aid on River Street in Thorndike for a brush fire. The department returned to service at 12:26 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 7, at 8:29 a.m., the department provided mutual aid on Sykes Street in Three Rivers for an alarm activation. The department returned to service at 8:38 a.m.

On Thursday, April 8, at 6:04 p.m.,

the department provided mutual aid on Springfield Street in Three Rivers for a compactor fire. The department returned to service at 6:45 p.m.

On Sunday, April 11, at 7:59 a.m., the duty officer responded to call requesting a smoke investigation in the area of Emery Street. An unauthorized burning was discovered and the department responded at 8:15 a.m. The department returned to service at 9:15 a.m.

On Monday, April 12, at 3:36 a.m., the department to a fire on a porch on Orchard Street. The call was cancelled en route and the department returned to service at 3:40 a.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to five calls and 20 EMS calls April 5-11:

On Tuesday, April 6, at 10:06 a.m., the department provided mutual aid in the area of River Street in Palmer for a brush fire. The department returned to service at 11:59 a.m.

On Tuesday, April 6, at 4:29 p.m., the department responded to a call for branches on power lines on Stafford Street. The department returned to service at 4:47 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 6, at 8:10 p.m., the department responded to a report of smoke in the area of State Avenue. The department returned to service at 8:47 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 7, at 4:28 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Maxwell Road. The department returned to service at 7:45 p.m.

On Saturday, April 10, at 2:07 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Lakeside Drive. The department returned to service at 2:42 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor’s note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please – to mharrison@turley.com.

NOW

EARTH DAY RIVER SWEEP: Volunteers needed for a river clean-up 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17, at Lavolette Field in Three Rivers – rain or shine. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers will be required to adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines

and social distancing protocols during the event. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Fortune at 413-626-7084 or sfortune@townofpalmer.com.

PET FOOD PANTRY: Need help feeding your cat or dog? Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary can help! Call/text them at 413-324-8229 or email pampam@heretodaysanctuary.org to sign up for the pet food pantry program for residents of Brimfield, Holland, Palmer, Monson, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Wales, Ware and Warren. Pet food pickup dates are held in Palmer and Ware, or you can pick up pet food any day at our Brimfield shelter. The next Palmer and Ware pickup date is Saturday, April 24. Contact Here Today by Thursday, April 22 to sign up.

SOON

PLANT SALE: Monson Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 8, at Dave Grieve Park Gazebo the corner of Main and Lincoln streets across from Memorial Hall starting at 9 a.m. A wide selection of perennials in addition to wildflowers, vegetables, shrubs, house plants, bulbs and herbs will be available. Plants come from members’ gardens, and members will be available to answer question. Proceeds go to local community projects such as downtown plantings, holiday greens, and a scholarship fund. Masks are required. Rain date is May 15.

AT THE PALMER LIBRARY

Don’t miss this year’s Big Library Read title, “The Art of Taking it Easy” which is now available from OverDrive. From Dr. Brian King, a psychologist and stand-up comedian comes this practical, yet laugh-out-loud guide to embracing humor to reduce stress and live a happier, fuller life. Readers have unlimited access to the ebook until April 19 – with no waitlists or holds. To learn more, visit biglibraryread.com.

Make your garden pop! The Palmer Historical & Cultural Center & the Palmer Public Library Present “Design A Sunny Perennial Border,” a virtual presentation with Author Jana Milbocker at 6 p.m. Friday, April 23. How do you create a sunny perennial garden that will delight you with colorful blooms and flowers for cutting from spring through fall? Join this Zoom presentation and learn about plant layering, new and reliable perennials, companion plants, and design techniques. Milbocker is the principal of Enchanted Gardens, as well as a lecturer and garden writer. Registration required at palmerlibrary.org.

AT THE HOLLAND LIBRARY

Join the Community Book Club: The book club will meet online via Zoom. Copies of the monthly book selection, in a variety of formats, are available for curbside checkout at the library. Contact the Holland Community Center for more information by calling them at 413-245-3163. Like them on Facebook for updates. To Join the Zoom meeting: Meeting ID: 736 9214 3025; Pass-code: p95795.

ONGOING

EVERYONE INVITED TO AQUACISE: The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club at 91 Claudia’s Way, Ludlow, offer Aquacise for residents of Monson, Palmer, Brimfield, Holland and Wales.

Aquacise will be offered 8-8:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. To reserve a spot visit ludlowbgc.org and click on Adult Programs, or call Matt Thompson at 413-583-2072, ext. 122. For updates on the facility, register on the website to receive Club emails. The Club continues to make health and safety its No. 1 priority to ensure all visitors who enter the building have a clean and safe environment.

PALMER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORCE: Consists of business owners, community members, survivors and allies. The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force promotes education and awareness in the community while empowering, educating and providing resources to those who have been affected by domestic violence and/or intimate partner Violence in Palmer or those who have found safety in Palmer. For help and meeting information, email palmerdvtf@gmail.com. All contact is confidential.

MUSIC LESSONS, YOGA AND MORE: Just because days are short, and the thermometer reads cold doesn’t mean there’s nothing to do. Hitchcock Academy constantly works with instructors to offer options to its community members. Look for upcoming classes in yoga, tai chi, meditation, and fencing. Hitchcock Academy follows all current COVID guidelines for cleaning and social distancing and anyone using the facility must wear a mask.

All information regarding current class offerings, events, and registration are available at hitchcockacademy.org.

FREE FOOD PROGRAM: The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation has found a way to get food to families that need it. The Farmers to Families program, set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is part of a Coronavirus Food Assistance Program that help people all over the nation and has a site in Springfield open to all residents. The program will supply food kits with fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products and meat products that distributes package into family-sized boxes. You can register for your food kit at mmsf.org. On the website choose “Springfield, Ma” as your pick up site and sign-up. Register for one week or all four with easy one time registration. Food kit includes fresh dairy, protein, and produce totaling 30+ pounds of food. Military families are encouraged to sign-up but registration is open to the public.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson at the corner

of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Books priced from 25 cents to \$1 each: fiction, nonfiction, thrillers, horror, mystery, science fiction, how-to, classic literature, children’s books, romances, cookbooks, gardening books and more. All proceeds benefit the parish. Donations are accepted. Call Mary at 267-9952 for more information. While currently closed, we are anticipating reopening later this year.

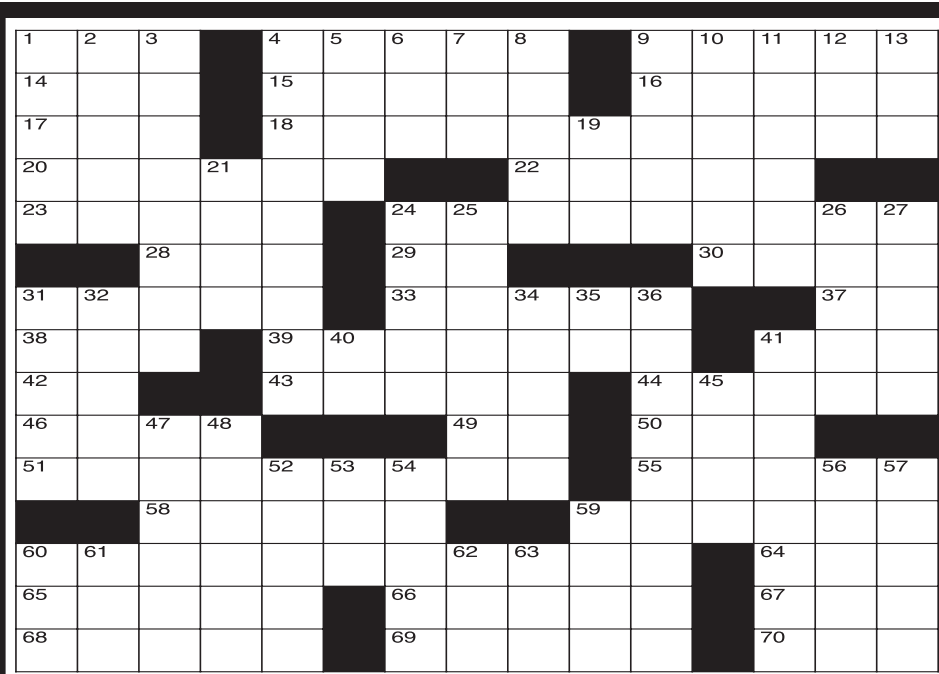
LEARN ABOUT LOCAL HISTORY: Want to learn more about local history? The Elbow Plantation Historical Society is available for research and other information. They can be reached at elbow.plantation@gmail.com. Send them your questions and comments and leave your preferred contact information and they will respond asap.

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB has a 20-foot x 20-foot tent for rent. The cost is \$75 for a two-day event. The club will put it up and take it down. For more details, contact Curt at 413-668-6653.

DAY SPRING LODGE A.F. & A.M. located 14 Bliss St., Monson is making its hall available for rent for \$75 for a variety of parties and functions. For reservations,, call Doug Battige at 413-267-5855 or 413-265-9398.

RESERVE YOUR CELEBRATION TENT now for your First Communion, bridal and baby showers, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties or any other kind of celebration you may have outdoors. The Palmer Lions Club has a tent for you, either 20-feet x 20-feet for \$125 or 20-feet x 40-feet for \$200. This includes setup and takedown in the Palmer area. Call Karen at 413-813-8445 to make a reservation. You may need to leave a message and your call will be returned. The Palmer Lions Club tent rental fees go towards assistance for the people of Palmer, Bondsville, Three Rivers and Thorndike.

SALVATION ARMY ASSISTANCE: Residents of Palmer, Thorndike, Bonds-ville and Three Rivers seeking emergency help with fuel assistance, utility payments/ shut off, food, and clothing can contact the Salvation Army in Canton, MA at 339-502-5900. This is the office located in Canton, MA. If eligible, staff there will be able to address your concerns and provide assistance until the local Palmer office is once again staffed by a volunteer outreach coordinator.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- 4. Ceramic jars
- 9. Monetary units
- 14. Alias
- 15. “Superman” actor
- 16. Britonic tribe
- 17. Shorten
- 18. LA Dodgers manager
- 20. Hoarded
- 22. Theatrically portray
- 23. Noah’s grandson
- 24. Dependent
- 28. Peyton’s little brother
- 29. Cools the house
- 30. Principle part of
- 31. Type of wrap
- 33. Peels
- 37. Commercial
- 38. Make an attempt
- 39. Arrange in steps
- 41. U. Utah athlete
- 42. Old English

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Batflower genus
- 2. Predatory seabirds
- 43. Trade
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Ticket seller __Hub
- 49. Of I
- 50. Institute legal proceedings against
- 51. Takes apart
- 55. Doorway
- 58. Long int’l river
- 59. Trailblazing athlete
- 60. Former CBS News host
- 64. Sign language
- 65. Badgerlike mammal
- 66. Thin strips of wood
- 67. Brooklyn hoopster
- 68. Portents of good or evil
- 69. Footwear
- 70. When you think you’ll arrive

CLUES DOWN

- 3. Fish farm
- 4. Arrangements
- 5. Go in advance of others
- 6. Bulgarian monetary unit
- 7. “__ Maria”
- 8. W. African ethnoreligious group
- 9. Wild Asian oxen
- 10. Vinegary
- 11. To this
- 12. Explosive
- 13. Female sibling
- 19. Orlando museum (abbr.)
- 21. Type of hoop
- 24. About Holy Father
- 25. Academic environment
- 26. Extremely angry
- 27. Surrenders
- 31. Swiss mountain pass

CLUES DOWN

- 32. Sharp mountain ridge
- 34. Erases
- 35. Spielberg’s alien
- 36. Absurd
- 40. Dorm worker
- 41. Used to make pesticides
- 45. The sister of your father or mother
- 47. A way to let know
- 48. Can’t produce much vegetation
- 52. Small streams
- 53. Folk singer DiFranco
- 54. Weights
- 56. Start over
- 57. Black Sea resort city
- 59. Wimbledon champ
- 60. Corporate executive (abbr.)
- 61. Unskilled actor who overacts
- 62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 63. Of or relating to ears



Customers can't wait to get into a past show at Brimfield Auction Acres. The field will open for the spring season on May 12.

FLEA MARKET | from page 1

collectibles community – Paul Young. Describing Young as a “Heritage Dealer,” Corriveau said his appearance at Brimfield Auction Acres will be his 148th show there in his 50 years in the business.

“He has not missed a show since the first show in 1959,” she said.

“His stories of his personal history of the shows is priceless. He will be here this May and we are so glad he considers Brimfield Auction Acres his favorite place to set up. Paul attended the Art Institute of Boston for three years. While attending the school he began visiting different museums which ignited his appreciation and love of antiques. Starting in 1958, Paul would come to Gordon Reids auctions. In 1970, he set up selling antiques at Joe Hopkins field for two to three years. He couldn’t get into Gordon Reids Auction Acres due to a waiting list. He finally convinced them his merchandise was worthy and a spot opened up. The rest is... history!”

Although there will be fewer stops along the mile of show fields along Route 20 than in pre-pandemic times, a full, traditional show is expected for



Courtesy photos
Since 1959 – the year of the first show – Brimfield Auction Acres has been a fixture for dealers and customers.

the next round in July. The third and final round of the season is in September.

To keep up with Brimfield Auction Acres, visit them on Facebook.

MONSON | from page 1

“I don’t have a problem with making a decision tonight,” he said.

“We’ve done that many times. I wouldn’t want to postpone a decision too long. We need to hire an administrator. We could still be talking about it in October (otherwise),” he said.

“I don’t think another couple of weeks will give me any more insight,” Smith said.

Harrison got right to the point. “My choice would be to keep what we’ve got and I make a motion to that effect,” he said, referring to Wolowicz, who recently earned a master’s degree in public administration and served in several positions, including intern and acting administrator and chief procurement officer for South Hadley over more than 15 years.

“I agree with Ed,” Smith said. “Her education, her experience with South Hadley. We’ve had a chance to see if she’s a fit for the community. I’ve talked to people and it’s unanimous — people think she’s a good fit for the town,” he said.

Hull said she was wary of offering the job to Wolowicz because of a personal beef – what she described as a failure by Wolowicz to provide Hull cover over not wearing a mask in public during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hull, who also serves on Monson’s Board of Health and has been on record several times about her personal opposition to wearing a mask, said she had a private conversation with Wolowicz about her choice and feels victimized by others in Town Hall who she feels do not approve.

“Because she didn’t go forward with that information,” Hull said she’s considered something of a pariah and worries about her safety in public buildings.

“I was nervous to be in the building,” Hull said, because “(Wolowicz) didn’t share that information.”

Hull asked all three candidates whether or not Monson police should be given health agent status and the power to fine residents who don’t follow state guidelines enacted during the pandemic, including wearing a mask. The candidates all gave similar non-committal responses to the question.

After Harrison made a motion to

vote on offering the position to Wolowicz – and admitting he didn’t know how to pronounce her name (it sounds like Wall-O-wits) – Smith seconded it. The vote was 2-1 with Hull dissenting.

“Unbelievable,” Hull muttered after Smith cast the deciding vote.

Wolowicz, the last of the three interviewed while 45 spectators observed via the town’s Zoom webinar and countless others tuned in to M-PACT TV’s broadcast, said one reason she wanted the job is, after earning her degree, “I want to use what I’ve learned in my career on the next level.”

She said she believes in looking creativity at ways to save the town money and to plan for years ahead.

“You can’t just buy a truck today and keep filling it with gas and you have that truck for 10 years. There’s maintenance, there’s repairs,” she said.

Other issues she said she would look forward to taking on include development to encourage more small business growth and senior citizen housing, possibly tackling both in part through public-private partnerships. And rather than refer to “economic development,” Wolowicz said “I prefer the term ‘community development.’”

If she could sum her up style to public service in a short phrase, that would be “customer service,” she said.

“It’s all about customer service. I started my career in a savings bank. Knowing peoples’ names and building relationships. We all work in town hall or the library or whatever town office you’re in, you’re representing the town. Residents don’t have the choice of where they want to do their (town) business. If they have a dog, they have to get a license at town hall. If they’re paying their taxes they do it at town hall. It’s about having a good customer service attitude.”

In response to the question Hull asked each candidate about defining “civil rights in the workplace” Wolowicz gave this answer:

“The right to privacy, a fair workplace, fair compensation and to not be discriminated against. I think civil rights in the workplace is being kind to one another, treat people as you want to be treated,” she said.

Monson club offers scholarship

The Monson Garden Club \$500 scholarship is open to a high school senior who resides in Monson and plans to continue school at a two or four-year college in any branch of the life, natural, or environmental sciences.

Applications may be obtained through the school guidance office and are due by April 27.



Courtesy photos

It was discovered that a big part of the reason for the deterioration of the tennis courts at Hitchcock Free Academy is that they were built over a water table that is close to the surface.

HITCHCOCK | from page 1

for multiple uses, including trails and gardens.

“First we have to recruit a committee and find out what the community wants,” she said.

“What is it that we really want and need? When we know that then we can start working on it.”

A decision will have to be made on the future of the tennis courts. Cracks on the courts can be temporarily patched, but investing in a complete resurfacing doesn’t make sense since Hitchcock learned the courts were built over a deep water table. The long-term solution would be relocating the courts where they wouldn’t be vulnerable to flooding, but that costly endeavor would require a fundraising campaign. In the meantime, the plan is to make a portion of the courts playable and the other beautified or considered for other uses, such as a potential pickleball court.

What to bring

Some tools and materials for the cleanup will be available, but Skowyr said anyone who can bring their own pruners, brush clippers, rakes, gloves, and safety glasses are encouraged to do so. Registration is not required but is appreciated for planning purposes. Hitchcock will post parking information prior to the event.

More information is available at the Hitchcock website at hitchcockacademy.org, by calling 413-245-9977, or you can send an email to execdirector@hitchcockacademy.org.

SENIORS | from page 4

ilies, and friends can sponsor a senior for the class of 2021 and let them know we support them, love them, are behind them and proud of them.”

New England Promotional Marketing representative Celia Lucas, who is helping multiple communities with similar efforts and also designed the banners and signs, has the booster club’s gratitude.

“It’s great to have the support of other people who are feeling the same way we are,” DeVries said.

“It’s been a rough year. I am a schoolteacher too, so it is just happy to be back with students. It is important for the seniors to celebrate because they almost missed an entire year.”

Lucas said other commu-

nities honored their graduating classes this time last year when the pandemic disrupted traditional plans.

“It stuck last year with some of the schools and it was a great opportunity to roll it out to the rest of the Western Mass. schools,” Lucas said.

“I am excited for the kids,” Sara Malo, president of the MABA, said.

“We are grateful we were able to have fall and winter season of basketball. We are also going to have a spring season. We’re doing everything we can to show our support, especially for the seniors with everything going on.”

Double-sided, 18 by 24-inch lawn signs are \$14 each; three by five-foot banners are \$36 and both can be purchased together

We All Scream For...



Turley Publications photo by Dan Flynn

PALMER — Rondeau's Dairy Bar recently opened for its 81st season. The award-winning community fixture is ready to serve up all your favorite frozen treats along with burgers, fried clams, and more. Why not treat yourself today?

Scout potato take-out fundraiser for Philmont High Adventure Base trip

WARE – Boy Scout Troop 281 Philmont Crew 2022 will hold a baked potato take-out fundraiser on May 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at All Saints Church Hall on North Street.

The cost is \$8 per person for advanced sales and \$10 per person at the door. The take-out dinner includes a huge potato, with all the fixings, a drink and dessert. The fixings include

butter, sour cream, green onion, bacon, cheese, chili and broccoli. There will also be a raffle table and a 50/50 raffle, and winners will be contacted.

Text or call Dan at 413-297-5886 or Paul at 413-214-1776, or email scoutdad281@charter.net. All proceeds will go toward the crew’s trip to Philmont High Adventure Base in New Mexico.



Courtesy photos

Sponsors for the Class of 2021 can purchase lawn signs, banners or both at special, low prices.

for \$50. Although the deadline is April 16 to sponsor a senior, DeVries said they are not closing the program until all seniors are sponsored one way or another.

Purchase online at monsonseniors2021.itemorder.com/sale or contact Lucas at 413-575-9208 or cflucas@gmail.com.

Send Us Your Summer Event Information

Turley Publications will print your summer calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our SUMMERFEST Supplement which publishes early June.

Deadline for submissions is May 4th.

Community Summer Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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***Be sure to indicate “Summer” in the subject line of your email.**

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.

Tantasqua High getting ready for June 12 graduation



Courtesy Photo

Like last year, Tantasqua Regional High School's graduation will take place on its football field to help facilitate social distancing.

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turlly.com

FISKDALE — Graduation season is fast approaching for Tantasqua Regional High School's Class of 2021, whose graduation date is set for 10 a.m. Saturday, June 12.

Tantasqua High Principal Michael Lucas said this is the second time the school will have its graduation outside on the football field due to COVID-19 safety guidelines.

"We did it last year in July for the class of 2020 after a delay for a graduation, which was originally scheduled for June," Lucas said. "We were allowed to have immediate family attend and it worked very well."

Tantasqua will also be following protocols set by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, such as commencements required to be held in a space where social distancing can be properly executed.

Along with graduation, Lucas said they will be hosting their traditional class night festivities with their seniors on Thursday, June 10, at the stadium.

"That's our awards and scholarships night. It'll likely be students-only because of COVID, but we're going to a fun event for the senior class afterwards."

As the principal of Tantasqua High, Lucas said witnessing his students persevere through the pandemic and graduate is amazing.

"It makes you very proud to be their principal and work with them," Lucas said.

"We have amazing students. I think teenagers in this day and age are incredibly resilient and I think they're incredibly positive, thoughtful and empathetic towards their peers and the world around them. I think we've seen nothing short of extraordinary measures by our own kids and their behavior."

Lucas also said they have tried

to support their students who might be struggling as much as possible, but found most students are finding success.

"We're very proud of our seniors, they've been terrific," Lucas said. "They've done a great job this entire time."

Chairman of Tantasqua Regional School District Michael Valanzola also shared his excitement for the Class of 2021 graduating.

"It was important last year and it's going to be important this year for us to ensure, that although this is a very difficult and challenging time, the things we do traditionally to celebrate our students continue to happen," Valanzola said.

"I'll be there and am looking forward to handing off diplomas and offering remarks as I always do. I think the biggest difference is it is outside as opposed to inside as it has been in years past. We will all be celebrating the class of 2021 and that's important and exciting for all of us."



Fresh local produce, meat, baked goods, and an array of other artisan products will be available weekly at the Hitchcock Farmer's Market.

Hitchcock Academy Farmer's Market returns this weekend

BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock Academy is keeping its tradition alive of presenting the area's earliest farmer's market, opening April 17.

Located in the Hitchcock parking lot at the corner of Brookfield Road and North Main Street in downtown Brimfield, the market will be open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. every Saturday through Oct. 30 except for flea market weeks. While some customers might want to arrive early for the best selection, the 2 p.m. closing means weekday early risers won't miss anything if they sleep in.

For 26 weeks, the Hitchcock Farmer's Market brings the community the finest in home made goods, locally grown, vegetable and flowering plants, produce, meat, baked goods, maple products, ice cream, herbs, soaps, salts, washes, balms, and more from trusted local vendors. Two of the vendors, Flourish Farm and Hunt Road Berry Farm, are set up to process SNAP and Healthy Incentives Program benefits, adding even more incentive to shop locally.

The Farmer's Market truly functions as a community event, providing an opportunity to become familiar with native goods and to interact with the producers of these goods. Dollars spent at the Farmer's Market go right back into the local economy and add to the regional wealth, while simultaneously providing the consumer with ready access to a healthier diet.

Cindy Skowyr, Hitchcock Academy's executive director, points out that, "the Farmer's Market also provides a consistent source



Courtesy photos

Hitchcock Academy's annual Farmer's Market opens April 17. Masks and social distancing are required per state and federal health guidelines while the pandemic persists.

the same vendors."

While many people have received COVID-19 vaccines, entry into the Hitchcock Farmer's Market will require a mask, Skowyr said. Patrons are also asked to follow current social distancing protocols.

More spring events

On April 24, at 9 am, just across the street from the Farmer's Market, Hitchcock Academy invites community members to participate in its effort to fix up its tennis and basketball courts (see related story). Spearheaded by Ken Hawk of Hawk's Lawncare and Landscaping, clean-up projects will include cutting brush and a few small trees, raking leaves and general clean up.

Hitchcock Academy rounds out its April offerings with an online seasonal look at the night sky. Astronomy, which features planetarium software, takes place on April 19. On April 29, fencing with instructor Andrew Bloch returns.

People thinking ahead to summer gardens need to circle May 22 on their calendars. Hitchcock will hold its second annual Plant Sale Fundraiser in its parking lot on May 22. All types of annual, perennial, vegetable and hanging plants will be on sale in time for Memorial Day planting. Anyone, thinning their gardens and finding themselves with an excess of plants are welcome to donate that excess to this fundraiser.

A busy June is planned by Hitchcock Academy, including its 11th annual Town Wide Tag Sale scheduled for June 5 and its first annual golf tournament scheduled for June 26. The golf tournament will be held at the Heritage Country Club in Charlton. Skowyr says sponsorship opportunities are available for this event. For more information contact her by email at execdirector@hitchcockacademy.org.

Helpline for those who may abuse intimate partners begins

First helpline of its kind in the United States

WARE — Ten to Ten, a free, confidential helpline for people who abuse or may abuse their intimate partner, was launched on April 15. The Helpline is the first of its kind in the United States, although similar programs exist in Australia and the United Kingdom.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission secured Federal CARES Act of 2020 funding for the Helpline in partner-

ship with 25 towns in the region, with Ware as the lead town. CARES Act funding is intended to address the impact of COVID-19, and studies across the country and the world show an increase in intimate partner violence since the pandemic started.

The Helpline will serve Western Massachusetts and will operate from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 365 days a year. The toll-free number is 877-898-3411. Family, friends and professionals worried that someone may harm their partner can also call the Helpline.

The Project is part of a broad national movement that seeks to increase non-criminal responses to intimate partner violence through the creation of community-based restorative practice.

The Helpline is a collaboration between the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Behavioral Health Network and Growing a New Heart. An Advisory Board of regional partners as well as two rural domestic violence task forces from the Ware River Valley and the Southern Hilltowns will oversee and guide the project.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is providing supplemental funding so that the Helpline can serve all of Western Massachusetts.

CVS Health announces availability of COVID-19 antibody testing

REGION — CVS Health has announced the availability of COVID-19 antibody testing in all MinuteClinic locations in Massachusetts; there are 59 MinuteClinic locations in the state.

The point-of-care test assesses for previous exposure to COVID-19 and results are available within 15 minutes. MinuteClinic is the retail medical clinic of CVS Health, with approximately 1,100 locations inside select CVS Pharmacy stores in 33 states and Washington, D.C.

"We know there is growing interest in affordable COVID-19 antibody testing and believe that MinuteClinic can help patients access this service given our convenient loca-

tions, extended evening and weekend hours and our commitment to high quality, evidence-based clinical care," said Sharon Vitti, president of MinuteClinic.

COVID-19 antibody test results are available within 15 minutes. During the visit, the MinuteClinic provider will perform the antibody test, which includes the collection of a finger stick blood sample, and will review the results with the patient. The COVID-19 antibody test is intended to assess for prior exposure to the virus and antibodies can develop in as few as 14 days after infection. This test is not intended to diagnose a current infection.

COVID-19 antibody testing

costs \$38 and payment is due at the time of service. Payment can be made using cash or credit, debit, HSA or FSA cards. If a patient has Medicaid, MinuteClinic may bill this insurance based on Medicaid requirements.

COVID-19 antibody testing at MinuteClinic is an extension of CVS Health's overall commitment to providing access to COVID-19 testing and the company is evaluating further expansion of this service in the coming weeks. CVS Health currently offers COVID-19 testing at more than 4,800 CVS Pharmacy locations, nearly 1,000 of which provide rapid-result testing. To date, the company has administered more than 15 million COVID-19 tests.

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BASKETBALL

DeVries hits 1000 point milestone in big week for Mustangs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—Just like her two older sisters, Monson eighth grader Tennessee Murphy is an outstanding soccer player. She's also becoming a very talented basketball player.

Murphy scored a career-high 21 points which helped the Lady Mustangs win their 21st consecutive game at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium with a 47-43 victory over the Northampton Blue Devils, last Monday night, April 5.

"Tennessee played a similar type of a game last year against Palmer as a seventh grader, so we already know what she's capable of doing," said Monson head coach Tim Pascale. "She was huge for us in tonight's game."

Despite playing very well on the basketball court against Northampton, soccer will always be Murphy's favorite sport. Her sisters, Brooke and Bee were outstanding players for the Lady Mustangs soccer team.

"Soccer is my favorite sport, but I feel like if

MUSTANGS | page 8



Olivia Chrzan heads up for a shot.



Sydney DeVries dribbles into the paint. She scored her 1,000th career point last week against Sabis.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

BASEBALL

Gameplay largely unaffected in modifications

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While gameplay will remain largely the same, many high school baseball players will have to change a number of habits at least to start the baseball season in May.

Baseball is a game of superstition, habitual repetition of certain motions and the needed to do things like spit seeds and chew gum.

But under the modifications to the sport made by the Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs, players will have to refrain some certain behaviors, wear masks, and maintain distance despite the game itself involving a lot of distance.

The EEA, which has been making modifications to high school sports and working with the MIAA to ensure safe play during the pandemic, did not have to do much to change how the game of baseball is played. But a number of the "dirty" habits needed to be curtailed to make it safer.

Consumption and spitting of sunflower and other seeds are prohibited this season. Players also cannot chew or spit during games. Spitting is also a major habit in baseball, and is banned for high schoolers and adults.

In high school, following warm-ups each half-inning, it is common for infielders, the catcher, and pitcher to have a brief "hype-up" huddle. That action is now banned to limit close contact among players.

If a coach wants to bring the infield into a huddle to discuss a

strategy, six-foot distancing is required. Otherwise, the EEA is encouraging coaches to limit mound visits in general, and typically just to one coach, a pitcher, and a catcher.

High-fives and hand shakes are also extremely common in baseball, especially after a runner scores or an at-bat has been completed. While fist-bumps are not specifically banned, the EEA says players must refrain from hand-touching, which includes high-fives, and handshakes. Like all sports, the post-game handshake is suspended until the pandemic has ended.

In order to increase grip on the bat, many players often spit on their hands and/or batting gloves. That practice is also not allowed, especially in the case of players sharing bats.

All shared equipment, specifically batting helmets and bats, and in some cases, catcher's gear, must all be properly sanitized between uses by different players. However, it can be shared unlike previous seasons and other sports where equipment could not be shared at all.

Game-play itself, is otherwise unaffected. While masks are required, there are no extra timeouts for water breaks as they are built in when a team is batting. There are no modifications to situations where players are in closer contact, such as the batter to catcher close distance, or a baserunner to a first baseman.

The spring season is scheduled to begin on April 26 with games beginning a week or two later. The spring season will go to July 3.



BASEBALL

New head coach for Blue Sox

HOLYOKE—The Valley Blue Sox are proud to announce the signing of Hezekiah (Hez) Randolph as the new head coach beginning this 2021 season.

"I couldn't be more excited to join the Blue Sox as head coach," said Randolph, who has a colorful history with the Sox, from being a player in the 2016 season to joining the coaching staff as a hitting coach in 2018.

"I think everyone's goal is to one day fill the position of head coach, so I am first thrilled to take on this role," He continued, "Secondly, to be the head coach for the Blue Sox, an organization that holds a special place in my heart."

Randolph, 25, hails from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and is an alumnus of the University of New Orleans, where he played collegiate baseball at the Division 1 level.

"I'm a southern kid, and I started playing unorganized baseball when I was two years old with my parents. I was hitting balls across the room," he laughed, "and that's when my dad decided that baseball was something that he should start investing in for me."

Randolph played baseball, basketball, and football at Parkview Baptist High School in Baton Rouge, where he discovered his passion for baseball, although "most people thought that football was my better sport," he said. After dropping basketball, his "first love," he ended up loving baseball more and more, and "it became the sport I saw myself playing at the next level."

Randolph excelled at the University of New Orleans, starting as a freshman and contributing to the "tough turnaround" of the team. He

led the Privateers in RBI (31), doubles (11), home runs (4), and slugging percentage (.433), in addition to being named a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American in his first year and All-Louisiana First Team in his senior year.

The summer after his junior year, the Blue Sox staff reached out to Randolph's college coach in hopes of having him join the 2016 roster.

"They actually thought I was some kind of myth," Randolph recalled, "Why would a guy from New Orleans, Louisiana show up to Massachusetts?"

In the end, Randolph did show up. He spent the summer with the Blue Sox, and was selected for the New England Collegiate Baseball League All-Star Game, in addition to earning second-team honors.

Randolph found a home with the Blue Sox organization. "It was probably the best time of my life. I had an awesome host family who I still communicate with, as they were such an amazing blessing to me. They continue to help me develop as a man and I truly view them as family," He said.

When he wasn't playing that summer, Randolph spent his free time giving hitting lessons. "I was developing as a player myself, but also learning how to develop other players to be able to reach their own goals."

Randolph's coaching style and philosophy originates in large part from the teachings of the previous Blue Sox head coach and current Director of Baseball Operations, John Raiola.

"John has been an amazing

BLUE SOX | page 8

AUTO RACING

Racing action kicks off at Icebreaker event

THOMPSON, Conn. — Hudson, NH's Derek Griffith went wire-to-wire to capture the Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Thompson 75 at the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10. Griffith grabbed the lead in the first corner and was on a rail from there, claiming victory in the headliner for the afternoon session of the 82nd Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park season opener.

Griffith's win kept the young star perfect on the PASS Super Late Model season. He captured both PASS National Easter Bunny 150 events at North Carolina's Hickory Motor Speedway the previous weekend. Now Griffith also has a win in the PASS North championship opener.

It took less than 500 feet for Griffith to get to the front at Thompson. He started second after winning the second qualifying heat, and when polesitter Ben Rowe had trouble coming up to speed, Griffith and several others shot past.

The only thing that could slow Griffith was the race's lone caution on lap 3 when Garrett Hall tagged the backstretch wall. When the field went green again, Griffith put the hammer down. Rowley, MA's Eddie "The Outlaw" MacDonald gave chase as best he could, and could narrow the gap some in traffic, but Griffith restored his margin every time they got clear.

Even as multiple other drivers had strong runs go sour in the unseasonable warm weather, Griffith never wavered. He ultimately put more than half the field a lap down and cruised to an impressive win.

"I love it here," Griffith said



Submitted photos

Keith Rocco was a winner at last weekend's Icebreaker event.



Sean Newcomb also picked up a win.

after the race. "I tell people all the time about how cool the Icebreaker is and how big of a weekend it is. You know we travel everywhere and not everybody understands

how big of a weekend it is — and not just for PASS...so to come get another (win) here is pretty cool. It's definitely one to mark off."

MacDonald finished second

with Center Conway, NH's Gabe Brown a comfortable third. Rowe recovered from his early troubles and held off Rowland Robinson Jr. for fourth. Reigning PASS North champion D.J. Shaw, Johnny Clark, Corey Casagrande, Mike Scorzelli, and Dan Winter rounded out the top-10.

Berlin, CT's Keith Rocco came out on top of a barnburner to win the Sunoco Modified season opener. Rocco started fourth in the 30-lap main event and took the lead from Oxford, MA's Troy Talman on a lap-9 restart after Christian Turissi's spin.

Wolcott, CT's Mike Christopher moved into the runner-up spot following the second caution on lap 13. Rocco and Christopher pulled away from the field nose-to-tail for several laps, but with seven to go, the real battle began. Christopher dove inside Rocco entering turn 3, the first of what would be six passes in as many laps. Rocco, however, kept putting his Modified out front at the start/finish line where it counted.

As the duo got the two-to-go signal, Christopher finally had the lead by a nose at the line and cleared Rocco entered turn one. Rocco went back underneath him in the third turn, and the two banged nerf bars. Christopher slid up the track, allowing Rocco to get away for another victory in his dominating Thompson Speedway career.

Talman and Todd Owen also got past Christopher thanks to the late contact, finishing second and third in the final rundown. Chris-

RACING | page 8

MIAA hosts virtual wellness summit

FRANKLIN – The Annual Wellness Summit, which was offered at no cost and intended for student leaders and school personnel, included a morning and afternoon session each day. Over 500 participants were engaged in 12 interactive workshops covering subjects such as student and staff mental health, self-care and resiliency, substance misuse prevention, promoting support for LGBTQ students, suicide prevention, sports injury prevention, clean eating and diet culture and student leadership and teamwork. Participants included students, teachers, nurses, school administrators, wellness coordinators and school resource officers.

Workshop presenters included members of the MIAA Partners in Prevention, a powerful collaboration of public and private prevention agencies and initiatives. These agencies provide generous support, resources and expertise in the delivery of wellness services and programs. Presenters included: Ivy Watts (Ivy Watts Speaks), Jeff Perrotti (DESE Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students), Charity Bell (MA Department of Mental Health), Robert Hackenson, Jr. (Dynamic Influence), Student Advisory Committee (SAC) (MIAA), Jon Mattleman (Minding Your Mind), Kendra McDonald (Samaritans), Dr. Andrew Chen and Kate Fischer (University Orthopedics), Theresa Melito-Connors (Dr. MC’s Self Care Cabaret), Monika Ostroff (MEDA), Chris Sullivan (Not in the Playbook) and Kathi Meyer Sullivan (Taylor’s Message).



Madison Bonneau lines up a free throw.

MUSTANGS | from page 7

I work hard, I can also become a very good basketball player,” Murphy said. “I do have a lot of fun playing basketball.”

The home victory over the Blue Devils improved the Lady Mustangs, who had a couple of weeks off due to COVID-19 related issues, season record to 3-0.

“This is a big win for us, especially after not playing for a couple of weeks,” Murphy added. “We really worked very hard for this win.”

The last team to beat Monson on their homecourt was the Granby Lady Rams on February 4, 2019. The Lady Rams defeated the Lady Mustangs, 60-52, in that contest. Nora Young, who’s currently a member of the AIC women’s basketball team, scored a game-high 25 points. Sydnie DeVries, who’ll be playing college basketball at Southern New Hampshire University next year, led Monson with 12 points.

Young and DeVries, who were teammates on the same AAU basketball team, will be battling each other as Northeast-10 foes during the next couple of years.

The first meeting of the season between Northampton and Monson was a hard-fought battle.

Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a six-team league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one playoff game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups are active and players who

are not already on a team will be placed in a draft, currently scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 11.

The league’s first games are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league’s website.

Valley Wheel Baseball seeks new players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is looking for new players for the 2021 season, which is set to begin at the end of April. Players who are 28-years-old prior to June 1 are eligible to play in the league this season, however, only those 30 by June 1 are eligible to pitch. The league includes six teams and there is a 15-game season that begins on Sunday, April 25. Games are 12 Sundays, a special Mother’s Day weekend Saturday game, and two weekday night games under the lights. The season ends the final week of July with the playoffs for the top

four teams during the first two weeks of August. Tryouts are set for the first three weekends in April. Tryouts will be Saturday, April 3, Sunday, April 11, and Sunday, April 18, all weather-permitting. A draft for new players will be held after the final tryout. All players bat and every player spends at least four innings in the field. The league will be playing with some minor modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please contact League Commissioner Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net.



Tennessee Murphy goes for the layup.



Mya Walker follows through on a shot.


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Turleysports

Athlete of the Week



Sydnie DeVries
Monson High School

DeVries scored her 1,000th career point during a busy week for Monson girls basketball. She hit the milestone last Wednesday against Sababnis. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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RACING | from page 7

topher had to settle for fourth. Danny Cates, Jonathan Puleo, John Lowinski-Loh, Richard Williams, Jason Sundeen, and Paul LaPlante completed the top-10.

Franklin, MA’s Bobby Santos III kicked off his Icebreaker weekend with a victory in the 25-lap NEMA LITES Midgets feature. Santos started seventh in the Matt and Bob Seymour-owned #1, and after a slow start, began his march to the front. He inherited the second spot on lap 13 when Dan Cugini’s Midget shut down, then caught leader Jim Santa Maria with eight laps to go.

One lap later, Santos drove beneath Santa Maria on the front stretch and cleared him entering turn 1. It was no contest from there as Santos sailed to the victory.

Santa Maria came in second followed by Jake Trainor. Kyle Valeri, Richie Coy, Paul Scally, Christopher Vose, Tiana Kibbe, Matt Seavy, and Cugini finished fourth through 10th.

Plymouth, MA Paul Newcomb ended a frenetic two days on a high note by winning the 25-lap Street Stock Open feature. Newcomb started fourth and found an opening early, muscling beneath polesitter Ryan Waterman in turn four to take the lead after two laps.

Candia, NH’s Jimmy Renfrew Jr. was the only driver who could even come close to hanging with Newcomb on the ensuing green-flag run. Renfrew got a shot on a restart with eight laps to go after Zachary Mead’s spin. But the #00 got loose exiting turn four the following lap. Renfrew eventually slid back to fourth as Newcomb marched to the victory.

Waterman finished second with Kyle Gero third. Joe Kohler, Wayne Coury, Bobby Segar Jr., Devin McCo-

nologue, Justin Travis, and Nick Hovey also earned top-10 finishes.

Freeport, NY’s Gerard Giordano Jr. won a photo finish over Warwick, RI’s Ryan Vanasse in the 35-lap EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge feature. Vanasse had pulled away in the middle stages of the event, but Giordano had the better long-run truck and ran him down with seven laps to go. The fourth and final caution came out soon after, setting up a four-lap dash to the finish.

Vanasse initially cleared Giordano on the restart. With two laps to go, though, Giordano ducked back inside. Entered turn for the final time, the duo touched and got sideways. After gathering it up, they banded doors again coming to the line. It was Giordano, the former series champion, edging Vanasse by 0.015 seconds for the win.

Waterford, CT’s Emma Monahan had a strong run for third. Duane Noll, Connor Souza, Joe Arena, Andy Lindeman, Todd Taylor, Joseph Coates, and Randy Coates opened their season with top-10 finishes.

Sterling, CT’s Jared Roy continued his domination of the Thompson Mini Stocks with a victory in their 15-lap feature. Roy came from seventh on the starting grid to run down Steven Michalski at the halfway mark. After ducking inside Michalski as the leaders completed lap nine, Roy completed the pass entering turn one a circuit later.

Coming out of turn four the next time around, Michalski broke loose and spun to bring out the race’s only caution. Roy had a rear-view mirror full of Gales Ferry, CT’s Thomas Silva over the final four laps, but held on for the victory. Dave Trudeau, Douglas Curry, and Charles Canfield completed the top-five.

BLUE SOX | from page 7

mentor for me. I never really experienced a coach put in the time to develop the person and not just the athlete,” said Randolph. “The mental part of it is always going to play a part in a player’s performance, and John definitely got me to understand that.”

Randolph was coaching a travel team when Raiola called to offer him the position as head coach.

“Throughout that summer, I enjoyed coaching so much that I thought to myself: If I love it so much, why not do it for a living? This was an opportunity I could not pass up.” He recalls.

In anticipation of the season, Randolph is looking forward to figuring out how to connect to his players as a head coach.

“The dynamic [from being an assistant coach to a head coach] is different.” He said, “The players feel like

they can be a little more comfortable with you, because, at the end of the day, an assistant doesn’t really make the lineup.

I think that is going to be the most interesting part, as John really taught me how important it is to be able to connect with your players and find out how you are going to motivate them. If you’re coaching a bunch of unmotivated guys, it’s going to be hard to drive them to win and be the best player that they can be. At the end of the day, developing players is what this is all about.” He said.

Randolph’s experience with the Blue Sox gave him a new outlook on the game of baseball, and he could not be more excited to begin his journey as head coach. According to Randolph, “this opportunity pretty much changed my life.”

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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Baystate Wing accepting scholarship applications

PALMER — The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has announced applications are now being accepted for their annual scholarship program. The scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors attending local schools, including Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, and Pathfinder high schools who are pursuing higher education in a healthcare field.

“Despite the current COVID-19 virus restrictions, limiting the group’s ability to fundraise, the Auxiliary members are proud to continue their annual tradition of offering seven \$1000 scholarships to area students,” said Teresa Grove, Auxiliary vice president.

Scholarship Application Information:

- All applications must be submitted via email by April 27.
- Seven (one year) scholarships will

be awarded by the Baystate Wing Auxiliary in May of 2021.

- Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$1,000. Applicants must be planning to pursue a career in health care and must be accepted into an accredited health care program such as nursing, medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, radiology, pharmacy, medical technology as well as other health care related fields.
- A student who is graduating from Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, and Pathfinder high schools in 2021 can apply.
- Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary scholarship applications are available in each school’s guidance office and will be accepted by email only.

For more information, student applicants should speak to their guidance counselor.

DEATH NOTICES

Corinne M. Chouinard (Godin), 89
Died: April 7, 2021

Marie G. Demarest, 80
Died: April 10, 2021

Robert H. Helliwell Sr., 82
Died: April 6, 2021

Louis E. Hermanson, 66
Died: April 11, 2021

Kelly L. Gregoire (Slingerland), 52
Died: April 10, 2021
Funeral Services are private

Sylvia Pyzocha, 64
Died: April 5, 2021
Memorial service to be held at a later date

Gordon C. Royce, 89
Died: April 5, 2021
Services are private

O B I T U A R I E S

Corinne M. (Godin) Chouinard, 89

PALMER — Corinne M. (Godin) Chouinard, 89, passed away April 7, 2021.

Born Sept. 14, 1931, in Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada, she was the daughter of Henri and Emelia (Theriault) Godin. Corinne grew up in Canada and has lived in the states for the past 56 years. She spent many years in Springfield and has lived in Palmer since 1987. She was a communicant of the former St. Anne's Church in Three Rivers and devoted her life to her family.

In 1999, she was prede-

ceased by her husband, Ino Chouinard and will be dearly missed by her four daughters, Ghislaine Mercier and her husband Michael of Crestview Fla., Lou- isanne Richter and her husband Thomas of Belfast, Maine, Francine Jordan and her husband Mark of Ludlow, and Patricia Jolly and Michael Houle of Indian Orchard. Corinne also leaves 13 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, loving companion of several years,



Clarence Michaud of Three Rivers, and is one of eight siblings.

Services will be privately held for the family and Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations

may be made in her memory to the Shriners Hospital for Children, Springfield. For details visit beersandstory.com.

Marie G. Demarest, 80

SPRINGFIELD — Marie G. Demarest, 80, passed away on April 10, 2021 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Daughter of the late Dominic and Diane (de la Parra) Lagana, she was born in Jackson Heights, N.Y., on March 7, 1941. Marie worked briefly as a travel agent and enjoyed going on cruises and traveling, but most of all, was a wonderful homemaker.

She enjoyed her trips to the casino, her mahjong group, and regular walks at the Quabbin with her husband. Marie also enjoyed donating her time to help out at the Enfield Soup Kitchen and later on, while living in Florida, she spent much of her time volunteering at the homeless shelter in West Palm Beach.

Marie was an avid parishioner of every church she attended over the years, most recently, St. Thomas the Apostle in Palmer.

She will be missed by all who knew her, including her loving husband and companion of 59 years, Ralph Demarest; her daughters Carole (Thomas) Pavlu of Palmer, Patricia (John) Kopec of Connecticut, Alicia Ford (David Burnham) of Maryland; her son, Ralph A. "Randy" (Kathleen) Demarest of East Longmeadow; her sister, Donna Cislak of South Carolina; her grandchildren Nicole (Isaac) Gibbs, Thomas "TJ" Pavlu, Michelle Kopec, John Kopec Jr (Cassie Dagata), Erin Demarest, Sarah Kopec, Nikolas Demarest, Michael Kopec, Kerianna Pavlu, Victor Herscher, Ariel Herscher, Joey-Marie Walker, Nicolas Walker, Jayden Walker-Smith; her great grandchildren Aslan and Levi Gibbs; as well as many



extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her sister, Lee Smith.

Visitation will be held 2-5 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home. Family and

friends are invited to gather the following morning at the funeral home at 9 a.m. for a 10 a.m. Liturgy of Christian Burial at St. Thomas Church. Rites of Committal and Interment to immediately follow in St. Thomas Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shriners' Hospital for Children, donate.lovetotherescue.org.

To leave a memory, please beersandstory.com.

Robert "Bob" H. Helliwell Sr., 82

PALMER — Robert "Bob" H. Helliwell Sr., 82, entered into eternal life on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Son of the late Clarence and Jane (Baxa) Helliwell, he was born in Central Falls, R.I., on July 6, 1938, and went on to graduate from Smith Vocational High School in 1955. Bob worked many jobs over the years including Agway for 30 years, Wal-Mart Lawn and Garden for 12 years, and most recently, for the Town of Palmer for over 17 years. He also owned a small engine repair shop and fixed sewing machines throughout the years.

Bob enjoyed the outdoors, especially going on nature walks and his birthday deep-sea fish-

ing trips with friends. Above all, his faith was most important to him. He was a longtime member of Faith Baptist Church in Palmer, serving for many years as a trustee and lending a helping hand whenever was needed, including cooking for church events, making weekly runs to the bank, and so much more. If there was a need, Bob did his best to help in whatever way he could. His presence will be missed by all of his church family.

Bob will be dearly missed by all who knew him, including his loving wife of 32 years, Anita (Jerome) Helliwell; his three



children, Donna Rule of Easthampton, Robin Johnson of Pennsylvania, Robert Helliwell Jr. of Florida; his four stepchildren, Glen Strader of Easthampton, Cameron Strader of New Mexico, Dale Strader of Amherst, and Eric Strader of S. Deerfield; his sisters, Carol Graham and Gail Gogoon; his 10 grandchildren; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

A memorial service for Bob was held April 10 at Faith Baptist Church in Palmer. To leave a memory, visit beersandstory.com.

Louis E. Hermanson, 66

BONDSVILLE — Louie "Louie" E. Hermanson, 66, passed away suddenly at home on April 11, 2021.

Born in Palmer on Aug. 7, 1954, he was the son of Harold and Carolyn (Watson) Hermanson. Louie has lived in Palmer for all of his life. As a carpenter, he worked with his uncle building houses. Then for many years, he worked as a die maker at Atlas Die until his retirement in April, 2020.

Louie enjoyed the great outdoors while hunting, fishing, archery and riding his motorcycle. Along with riding his motorcycle, he could often be found repairing and collecting them

as well. Woodworking was in his blood, he could make or fix anything and he was always ready to lend a helping hand.

Louie's love and memory will forever remain with his wife, Sandra "Sandy" (Beausoleil) Hermanson; his sons, Derek Hermanson of Belchertown and Seth Hermanson and Molly Dolben of Whately.

Louie also leaves his brother, Dave Hermanson of Monson; a nephew, Eric and Val Hermanson; a niece, Kristin and Marc LeClair; and great nieces Katie



Hermanson and Julianne LeClair. Louie had many close friends and extended family.

A gathering of family and friends will take place in the near future at the Swift River Sportsman's Club, where Louie was a member for over 30 years.

Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in his name to the Sportsman's Club. For details, visit beersandstory.com.

O B I T U A R I E S

Kelly L. Gregoire, 1968-2021

WILBRAHAM — Kelly L. (Slingerland) Gregoire, 52, passed away at home Saturday, April 10, 2021. She was born in Springfield to the late Charles W. and Alice J. (Lovelace) Slingerland. Kelly attended Monson schools before continuing her education and graduating from Pathfinder Regional Technical High School. Kelly's greatest joy came from being a mom and grandmother. She supported her daughter with her education

and accomplishments and loved watching her son race motocross. She often said "My children are my life and I'm so very proud of both of them". Her granddaughter was always the twinkle in her eye.

Kelly leaves her beloved children, Kimberly Partelo and Brandon Gregoire both of Wilbraham; her cherished granddaughter, Kylee A. Panek; a brother, Charles Slingerland of Monson and nieces and neph-

ews. Kelly was predeceased by her parents and her sister Kimberly Gilbert.

Funeral services are private and have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in Kelly's name to Shriners Hospitals for Children 516 Carew Street Springfield, MA 01104. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Sylvia Pyzocha, 64

PALMER — Sylvia Pyzocha, 64, passed away peacefully at home on April 5, 2021, surrounded by her loving family and friends.

She was born on Sept. 6, 1956, in Palmer to John and Maxine (Gaj) Sasur. She grew up in Three Rivers and enjoyed skiing at her family's ski area, Hemlock Hill. She was the first full-time female city mail carrier in Palmer and retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 30 years of service. Sylvia enjoyed spending time in the outdoors, skiing, kayaking, gardening, walking in the woods, traveling and spending time with her grandchildren. She especially enjoyed trips to Gloucester with her husband, John.

During retirement, she developed a passion for nature photography and became

an accomplished, award-winning photographer. She was a member of the Monson Arts Council and Springfield Photographic Society.

Predeceased by her father, John Sr., she leaves behind her mother, Maxine, of Three Rivers; her husband of 44 years, John Pyzocha, Jr.; her daughter, Michelle and husband, Se-Min Sohn, of West Hartford, Conn.; two sons, John Pyzocha and dear friend Kim Seaver, of Three Rivers; and Michael Pyzocha and wife, Anne, of Philadelphia; She also leaves behind her grandchildren, Evan, Matthew, and Robin; as well as her sisters, Linda Viens and life companion Reggie Sandiford; Sandra Walsh and her companion,



Douglas Van Slyke; her brother, John Sasur and wife Heather; nieces Laura, Lisa, Devon, and Jayme; and nephews Steven and Timothy. She will be missed by her dear friends, Sue Draper and Ken Langevin, Kathy Malo and Rick

Wytek, Deb and Pete Chabot, as well as many close friends throughout the community.

She touched so many people through her generous nature and the beauty of the art she created.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Sylvia's name may be made to the Monson Arts Council or the Springfield Photographic Society. For more information, visit beersandstory.com.

Gordon C. Royce, 89

MONSON — Gordon C. Royce, 89, passed away Monday, April 5, 2021 in Florida.

Gordon was born July 8, 1931, in Stafford, Conn., to the late Burt T. and Verna L. (Bradway) Royce. He was a lifelong resident here and spent many winters in Lake Placid, Fla. Gordon honorably served his country in the U.S. Army. Upon his discharge in 1954, he began his more than 40-year career with RE Phelon. He began his career as a machinist, then became a toolmaker and retired as a foreman.

He enjoyed being a gentleman farmer, raising cows and chickens and always planting a garden. While he was in Florida

he enjoyed shuffleboard and often ran the shuffleboard league at the Lake Placid Shuffle Board Club.

Gordon was predeceased by his wife Elizabeth C. Royce in 2008. He leaves his sons, Gary S. Royce of Monson and Duane Royce and his wife Laura of Canton, Conn.; a daughter, Linda Drouin and her husband Gilbert of Monson; a sister, Lorraine Kelley of Monson; a brother, Phillip Royce of Monson; three grandchildren — Danielle Cook, Andrew Drouin, Christine Nimtz and her husband Kurt; three great-grandchildren



— Kylie Cook, Jaclyn Cook and Zoe Nimtz; and many nieces and nephews. Gordon was predeceased by his brothers Raymond Royce and Earl Royce.

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. A private graveside service with Military Honors will be held at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution in Gordon's name to the Monson Senior Center, Main St. Monson, MA 01057. For online condolences, visit lombardfuneralhome.com.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

DMV extending grace period for expired inspection stickers

Due to the nationwide system outage of motor vehicle inspection services by its vendor Applus Technologies impacting inspection stations and motor vehicle owners, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles is extending a grace period for specific motor vehicle inspection requirements.

The requirements are outlined below and include an extension which now allows vehicle owners with expired March 2021 and April 2021 inspections stickers to have through May 31, to obtain inspections. The RMV is working in close partnership with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Massachusetts State Police and other stakeholders to mitigate the impacts of the outage.

The RMV is allowing a grace period for certain expired motor vehicle inspections. The RMV has advised law enforcement that compliance with the safety/emissions inspection requirement has not been possible since March 30, in light of the outage caused by the

malware attack against Applus.

Motor vehicles with expired inspection stickers from March 2021 ("3" sticker on windshield) and April 2021 ("4" sticker on windshield) are extended until May 31, to obtain an inspection.

Newly purchased vehicles registered on or after Tuesday, March 23, 2021, should be granted until April 30, 2021, to obtain an inspection. Newly purchased vehicles must typically be inspected within seven days of registration.

Customers who recently had an inspection rejection and are in the 60-day free retest window will be afforded one extra day for each day Applus's system remains unavailable but should plan to facilitate their inspection as soon as possible once the system is restored and stations are online.

Status of vehicle inspections

Applus Technologies, a vendor that facilitates vehicle inspections in Massachusetts and several other states, experienced a cyber-attack in several states on March 30, preventing the RMV's

vehicle inspection stations from conducting vehicle inspections statewide.

The RMV will hold the vendor accountable for this disruption and is working with Applus to restore services as soon as possible. Applus has indicated that their systems will be operating by Saturday, April 17, in Massachusetts and the Registry will continue working with the vendor to meet this goal.

It has been 15 days since the Registry learned of the Applus cyber-attack, and the outage has had a significant impact to the many business owners who employ staff to deliver vehicle inspection services to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

For additional information and details on these and other RMV service offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.mass.gov/rmv or <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information>.

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Keep in touch with kids at camp

Summer camp is an exciting way for children to spend their extended vacations from the classroom. Camps cater to various interests, including sports, crafts and even technological hobbies.

Children who attend overnight camps may spend several nights away from home. Some kids take this in stride, while others, possibly away from home for the first time, may experience some homesickness. Staying in touch while the kids are at camp can help alleviate fears and show children their parents care.

Camps now handle communication issues differently than they might have when today's parents were campers. While it once common for campers to send handwritten letters or short missives home to mom and dad, technology has changed that. Today's campers may have access to email accounts, or they even may be allowed to bring mobile phones along. This can facilitate communication, but it also may take away from the camping experience.

Parents need to find a balance between what might be too little or too much contact with campers. After all, camp is kids' chance to grow independent for a few days or weeks.

• Learn camp rules. The camp will likely provide information regarding correspondence. Camps may permit parents to send one-way emails and regular mail, but limit campers to handwritten letters only. Determine if mobile phones are allowed or

should be left at home. Knowing the rules can help parents and kids plan accordingly.

• Pack correspondence supplies. Send kids to camp with fun papers, stickers, pens, and other crafty items. This way they'll be inspired to write home once or twice. Provide brief lessons on how to address an envelope for campers who may not know how.

• Check blogs and texts. Some camps may blog about campers' progress, post information on social media or send out mass texts. These messages can reassure parents that their youngsters are doing just fine. Figure out which tech options are available from camp administrators.

• Send a care package. Treat the campers to some supplies from home. Pack camp-approved snacks and other reminders of home. Be sure to include enough for the entire cabin and your son or daughter will be the camp star.

• Expect some silence. If camp is going well and campers' days are fun-filled, they may be too busy for daily correspondence. Parents may get nervous when they don't routinely see or hear from their children, but chances are everything is going swimmingly.

The camp experience is often harder on parents than children, as campers have their friends and activities to keep them busy. Brief communication helps campers grow more confident and independent.



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Prevent dehydration during the dog days of summer

A person's desire to be outdoors can sometimes be at odds with the outdoors itself. The dead of winter tends to be a time of year when people know to stay indoors, but the dog days of summer can be dangerous as well.

Heat-related diseases like dehydration can put lives at risk. According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, children and people over the age of 60 are particularly susceptible to dehydration and how to prevent it is essential for anyone who plans to spend time outside during the summer.

What is dehydration?

The U.S. National Library of Medicine notes that a dehydrated body does not have enough fluid and electrolytes to work properly. On an average day, the human body needs about three quarts of water. But the USNLM notes that anyone planning to spend time outside in the hot sun needs significantly more water than that to avoid dehydration.

What are the signs of dehydration?

Johns Hopkins Medicine notes that people experience dehydration differently. However, there are some common symptoms that indicate someone is dehydrated.

ed. These symptoms include:

- thirst,
- less frequent urination,
- dry skin,
- fatigue,
- light-headedness,
- dizziness,
- confusion, and
- dry mouth and mucous membranes,
- increased heart rate and breathing.

Children who are dehydrated may exhibit additional symptoms, including dry mouth and tongue; no tears and crying; no wet diapers for several hours; sunken abdomen, eyes or cheeks; listlessness; irritability; and skin that does not flatten when pinched and released.

How to prevent dehydration

Drinking plenty of fluids when working or playing in the sun is one way to prevent dehydration. Being sure to take in more fluid than you are losing is another way to prevent dehydration.

dration. Anyone, and especially people who sweat a lot, should keep a close eye on fluid loss when spending time outdoors in the summer. Sports drinks that help people maintain their electrolyte balance, such as Gatorade, can help prevent dehydration as well. Pedialyte is often recommended for sick infants or children who have experienced vomiting, as it

can help restore electrolyte balance that was adversely affected when kids became sick. The solution can be equally effective at restoring electrolyte balance that was thrown off

during heat exposure.

Dehydration poses a significant health risk at any time of year, but people who spend time out in the summer heat may be especially vulnerable. Limiting time spent outdoors on hot days and keeping a close eye on your fluid intake and fluid levels can help prevent dehydration.

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HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

More tales from Henry Edson

The story of Corbett Gardner and his rat lingers on

By Charles F. Bennett
Wilbraham-Times Editor Emeritus

I like to browse through the memoirs of former town historian, tree warden and assessor Henry Edson to take the temperature of the times he lived in, in Wilbraham. Edson's memories make up part of the fabric of the town's folklore.



Charlie Bennett

Bicycle vs Horse

In his chapter called "When Bicycles Were New" in Henry Edson's memoirs, "Glendale Stories", he talks about a clash between a small boy riding an old-fashion high bicycle with a big front wheel, on his way to school and a Wilbraham country doctor coming home in a horse and buggy from an all-night watch with a sick patient.

Edson did not provide much details; didn't give the boy's or the doctor's name. He didn't say where in Wilbraham it happened, only that it took place on "Joe Hill" in Glendale, wherever that is? He did say the horse's name was Jennie and that it was a bright spring morning.



PHOTO COURTESY PINTEREST
Boy on an old-fashioned bicycle, circa 1880.

The doctor saw the boy on the shiny bike flying around the turn of Joe Hill, "sailing gloriously along, coat tails flying in the wind," wrote Edson.

The doctor was half asleep from his long night's watch - guiding Jennie along peacefully jogging in the main road. Suddenly, the little bay mare spotted the boy flying towards her on his bicycle, "a terrifying, shimmering apparition" wrote Edson. The horse's instinct kicked in, she forgot about the doctor, could only think of self-preservation as she whirled to the left, performed a frenzied leap and the carriage and its occupant flopped over on its side.

The boy quickly grabbed her by the bridle and began saying some soothing "horsey-human words" that the nervous beast could understand, to calm her down. "Her horse-sense returned; she thought of the doctor and hung her head in shame," said Edson.

The youth had been quick-thinking. The bicycle had rammed into the steep bank beside the road sending the youth flying into the panic-stricken horse but preventing serious damage. As for the doctor, he slowly crawled out of the mess. A neighbor nearby saw it all happen and ran to help. Looking anxiously up into the bruised and bleeding face, he asked a superfluous question, "Are you hurt doctor?" The boy laughed and the doctor grinned crookedly. The three of them righted the carriage and untangled Jennie, shook the dirt off the blankets and cushion and the doctor's face and clothes.

The only real harm was to the doctor's medicine bag, which left pills strewn all over the road. With thanks to the neighbor and the youth, with a little boosting, and some adjusting the doctor suggested to Jennie that they had better start for home once more. The horse took the hint and started to jog along, her own calm self once again.

The youth mounted his shining wheels and pedaled down Joe Hill. He had something to tell when he got to school.

Getting Rid of a Pest

Edson also tells a tale of schoolboy Corbett Gardner who didn't like to study in Schoolhouse No. 7 in Glendale. He sat behind Susan, a schoolgirl with long black tresses, who loved to study Geography.

During a geography lesson Susan's long hair landed on Corbett's desk behind her. Corbett mischievously began stuffing her hair in a crack of his desk, hoping that when she stood up to recite the lesson she would jokingly be jerked back and cause a funny scene.

Edson wrote, "Anticipating results when the studious Susan got up to recite, so absorbed was he in working some of the glistening strands into the cracks (of his desk) that he failed to note the (school) master beside him."



Henry Edson

TIMES FILE PHOTO

students in that class became ministers, doctors, lawyers, but their names are hardly remembered in Wilbraham folklore. But the legend of Corbett Gardner and his rat still lingers.

Military Service

From time to time, I like to



PHOTO COURTESY DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH
Schoolchildren in Glendale School No. 7.



PHOTO COURTESY DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH
Photo of schoolchildren from Glendale Schoolhouse in June of 1927 from the Local History files of Wilbraham Library.

The school master was a nice young man who had studied at Wesleyan Academy (the forerunner to Wilbraham & Monson Academy) trying to make some extra income by teaching the winter term "over the mountain" in Glendale. He was popular with the students and known for being lenient with his punishments.

The school master carefully extricated Susan's hair from the desk and said, "Corbett, you are so industrious, you may take the tongs and sit on the dunce block in the corner and catch that rat." The bold rat was known to hang around the school room living off crumbs from the kids' lunches.

Back then, when a student caused problems in class he was made to sit on the "dunce block", a stool in the corner of the room to the derision of the other students and the teacher. Corbett could care less if the others tittered about him; and no one really ever expected him to catch the rat.

He sat on the wobbly stool for a long time, "almost forgotten in the monotony of the recitation," wrote Edson.

All of a sudden, he loudly cried out, "By gum I've got him!" and held up the squirming rat in his tongs; then calmly killed him on the hearth of the old wood stove.

Edson matter-of-factly sighed that some of the

mention, in this column, military service performed by a citizen or citizens of the town of Wilbraham. This week I will salute the career

News From Yesteryear 58 Years Ago

Meeting Planned at State Line

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940's through 1970's. From a April, 1963 edition. "At the selectmen's meeting Tuesday night it was announced that there will be a meeting Saturday at the State Line Potato Chip Col on Boston Rd. at which a representative of the Department of Public Health, local Health Agent John Brickett and representatives of Tighe & Bond (engineers) will be present.

The meeting is in regard to a sanitary sewer arrangement being sought by the company.

of Capt. James Shaw (1739-1831) who fought in the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War.

According to "The Military Rolls of the Outward Commons" by J. Bruce Tingle, he enlisted in the Continental Army on May 5, 1775. As a timeframe, he joined up the same year as Mozart wrote the opera "La Finta Giardiniera" in Salzburg and James Watt perfected his invention of the steam engine. Shaw captained an artillery company under Col. Charles Pyncheon in August of 1776. He served as a private under well-known Wilbraham soldier Capt. Daniel Cadwell at Ft. Ticonderoga in December of 1776.

He also formed a Wilbraham volunteer artillery company in mid-1777. That company was sent off to Saratoga, N.Y. on Sept. 15 that same year. He died on April 8, 1831 at the ripe old age of 92. Shaw was the husband of Leah Fuller Shaw. Both the Shaws were long-lived. She died 10 days after him on April 18. They are both buried in Adams Cemetery.

"The Military Rolls of the Outward Commons" by J. Bruce Tingle. "The Time-tables of History" by Bernard Grun, Touchstone Publishing. "Glendale Stories" by Henry Edson, Wilbraham Library. Thanks to Wilbraham Library Director Karen Demers and Adult Services Librarian Mary Bell.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Wilbraham Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.



Courtesy photo

Purple Martins have arrived along with spring.

Purple Martins helps spring get going

In a sure sign that spring is not far behind, the first Purple Martins of the year have been spotted in Massachusetts.

The birds were seen on April 3, in the town of Mashpee by a Purple Martin enthusiast - one of many people throughout the eastern and central United States who track and report on the birds' annual migration on behalf of the Purple Martin Conservation Association.

"The Purple Martins arrival in Massachusetts show the birds are making steady progress northward since they first made landfall in Florida two days before Christmas," said Joe Siegrist, president of the Purple Martin Conservation Association. "Tracking the migration is not only fun, it also provides us with valuable information that helps inform our research and strengthen our efforts to make sure we're doing everything possible to sustain the population of these amazing birds."

North America's largest species of swallow, Purple Martins winter in the rainforests of Brazil before making up to a 7,000-mile migration north into the eastern United States and Canada.

The annual migration is a testament to the martins' resilience as well as the unwavering dedication of thousands of 'martin landlords' who maintain multi-compartment nest 'condos' that are essential for the birds' survival. Once widespread in rural America, this species, that eats billions of flying insects annually, has been disappearing at an alarming rate, experiencing a loss of one-third of its population over the last 50 years.

"The decline seems to be the combination of a few factors: nesting habitat loss, competing invasive species, decreasing prey

availability, and climate change," said Siegrist. "Over the majority of the Purple Martins' range, they are unable to nest naturally any longer. Human-provided nest boxes are the only thing keeping the species alive east of the Rocky Mountains."

Siegrist says the very survival of the species is due in large part to scores of dedicated conservationists who invest their time, money and hearts into maintaining housing for the martins.

"The landlords provide critical shelter for the martins," Siegrist said. "In return, they are rewarded with a family-like bond with the birds who return to the same colony year after year like clockwork."

To follow along with the Purple Martins' migration and learn more about how you can help conserve this treasured bird, visit www.purplemartin.org. In addition, people interested in learning more about how to attract and care for Purple Martins can receive a free booklet by contacting the Purple Martin Conservation Association by emailing info@purplemartin.org or calling 814-833-7656.

Based in Erie, Pennsylvania, the Purple Martin Conservation Association is an international tax-exempt, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of the Purple Martin through scientific research, state of the art wildlife management techniques and public education.

The PMCA serves as a centralized data-gathering and information source on the species, serving both the scientist and Purple Martin enthusiast. The PMCA's mission is educating martin enthusiasts in the proper techniques for managing this human-dependent species.

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Public notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600**

**Docket No. HD21P0649EA
Estate of:
Richard Arthur Aldrich
Also Known As:
Richard A. Aldrich
Date of Death:
April 17, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Bruce A. Aldrich** of Ware, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Bruce A. Aldrich of Ware, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

4/15/2021

**TOWN OF PALMER
TOWN MANAGER
PALMER,
MASSACHUSETTS
ADVERTISEMENT FOR
BIDS**

The Town of Palmer, Massachusetts, acting by and through the Town Manager, invites sealed Bids for the proposed **"Palmer WPCF Electrical Service and Pump Stations No. 5 and No. 5 Generator Replacements"**. Sealed Bids will be received at the Town Manager's Office at the Town Hall, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 until Wednesday May 26, 2021 at 2:00 PM and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Sealed bids must have outer envelope marked as **"PWPCF Electrical Service and Pump Station Generator Replacements"**.

Sealed Bids from Subcontractors addressed as referenced above will be received by the be received at the Town Manager's Office at the Town Hall, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 until **Wednesday May 12, 2021 at 2:00 PM** and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Sub-Bids with the required Bid deposit will be received for the following items of work:

**Subtrades
HVAC**

The work consists of: PWPCF Electrical Service Replacement: The removing and properly disposing of 15kv-480V pad-mount transformer. The utility shall provide a new pad-mount and medium voltage cabling and connections. The removal and replacement of existing secondary main feeders from the padmount transformer to the secondary service. The removing and properly disposing of the existing secondary main switchboard and utility meter. The replacement of

the switchboard, reconnection to the standby automatic transfer switch and all existing loads, equipment pad modifications and all appurtenances as required by the contract drawings and specifications.

Pump Station No. 4 Generator Replacement: The removing and properly disposing of the existing Onan 50 kW back-up generator and appurtenances followed by furnishing and installing a new 50 kW capacity diesel back-up generator and appurtenances, new automatic transfer switch and controls, new day tank, new intake and exhaust louvers including masonry work to increase the louver size, and all appurtenances as required by the contract drawings and specifications.

Pump Station No. 5 Generator Replacement: The removing and properly disposing of the existing Onan 60 kW back-up generator and appurtenances followed by furnishing and installing a new 60 kW capacity diesel back-up generator and appurtenances, new automatic transfer switch and controls, new day tank, new intake and exhaust louvers including masonry work to increase the louver size, and all appurtenances as required by the contract drawings and specifications.

The work shall be substantially complete within 215 calendar days of the Notice to Proceed and approved for final payment within 245 calendar days of the Notice to Proceed.

All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A - 44J inclusive as amended.

In accordance with Section 44D of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of Massachusetts as amended, the prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders must submit with their Bid, a certificate of eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), showing that the Bidder has been approved to bid on projects of the size and nature as advertised herein. Prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders must also submit an updated statement summarizing their record for the period between the latest DCAMM certificate and the date of the Bid submittal. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the General Bidder shall be for the category of work defined as "Electrical" and they shall have a "Prime" certification. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the Filed Sub-Bidders shall be for the category of work for which they are submitting a Bid.

Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: http://www.tighe-bond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php

Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the web site in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added to the "planholders" or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project.

A bid deposit shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

No Bid may be withdrawn within 60 days after the date of the opening of Bids.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the pro-

vision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the WPCF (1 Norbell Street, Three Rivers, MA 01080), Massachusetts on Tuesday April 27, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

Owner reserves the right to waive any informality in or to reject any or all Bids, or to accept any Bid which in their opinion, is in the public interest to do so.

**TOWN MANAGER
TOWN OF PALMER,
MASSACHUSETTS**

Consulting Engineer:
Tighe & Bond, Inc.
53 Southampton Road
Westfield, MA 01085
413-562-1600

04/15/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21P0637EA
Estate of:**

**Roger A Bosworth
Date of Death: 02/05/2016
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Walter E Bosworth** of Belchertown, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Walter E Bosworth** of Belchertown, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/05/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First

Justice of this Court.
Date: April 07, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/15/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court Department
Hampden Division**

**Docket No.
HD03P156948TP1
NOTICE OF
TRUSTEE'S ACCOUNT**

To all persons interested in the estate of **KEVIN DOYLE** of Palmer, Hampden County, MA, a protected person.

You are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 that the **Twenty-sixth** Account(s) inclusive of T.D. Bank, N.A., and Thomas Doyle, Trustees under a written instrument for the benefit of said Kevin Doyle have been presented to said Court for allowance.

If you desire to preserve your right to file an objection to said account(s), you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at **Springfield** on or before the **5th day of May, 2021**, the return day of this citation. You may upon written request by registered or certified mail to the fiduciary, or to the attorney for the fiduciary, obtain without a cost a copy of said accounts.

If you desire to object to any item of said accounts, you must, in addition to filing a written appearance as aforesaid, file within thirty days after said return day or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order a written statement of each such item together with the grounds for each objection thereto, a copy to be served upon the fiduciary pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 5.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland** Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Springfield this 5th day of April, 2021.

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/15/2021

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **LOUIS M. GEORGE and CHRISTY GEORGE to SOUTHBIDGE CREDIT UNION** dated October 30, 2002 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds (the "Registry") in Book 12679, Page 537 (the "Mortgage"), of which Mortgage the undersigned (the "Mortgagee") is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of the Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021 at the mortgaged premises located on or near 1242 Dunhamtown Road a/k/a Dunhamtown Brimfield Road, Brimfield, Massachusetts (the "Premises"), all and singular the premises described in the Mortgage, to wit:

"Property Address: 1242 Dunhamtown Road, Brimfield, MA

Being known and designated as Lot No. 5-A, as shown on a plan entitled "House Lots in Brimfield, MA owned by Robert E. Houde, November 2, 1987, N.E. Leathers", said plan being recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 262, Plan 56, said lot or parcel more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron

pin set in the ground on the westerly side of Dunhamtown Road, said iron pin being the northeasterly corner of the lot or parcel herein described;

THENCE running South 8 degrees 42' 20" West, one hundred ninety-five and 7/10 (195.7) feet along said Dunhamtown Road to a concrete bound as shown on said plan;

THENCE running South 9 degrees 08' 35" West, forty-nine and 00/100 (49.00) feet to a point;

THENCE turning and running North 77 degrees 38' 10" West, seven hundred fifty-eight and 6/10 (758.6) feet along the northerly line of Lot No. 5-B as shown on said plan to a point;

THENCE turning and running North 38 degrees 15' 17" East, two hundred sixty-nine and 8/10 feet (269.8) feet [sic.] to a point;

THENCE turning and running South 78 degrees 49' 50" East, one hundred eighty-four and 7/10 feet (184.7) feet to an iron pin;

THENCE running South 77 degrees 20' 15" East, four hundred forty-one and 10/100 (441.10) feet to an iron pin at the point of beginning.

Containing 3.91 acres according to said plan.

BEING the same premises conveyed to Louis M. George and Christy George by Deed of Louis M. George, dated October 29, 2002 and recorded with the Hampden District Registry of Deeds, immediately prior hereto as Instrument No. 94119."

The description of the Premises contained in the Mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The Premises, together with all improvements encumbered by the Mortgage, are to be sold and conveyed subject to all leases, tenancies, occupancies, mortgages, restrictions, covenants, orders of conditions, easements, encroachments, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, federal and state tax liens, other liens or claims in the nature of liens and existing encumbrances recorded prior to the Mortgage and/ or otherwise having priority over the Mortgage, if there be any.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable deposit of TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS is to be paid by certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale, the balance to be paid by certified or bank cashier's check and deed to be taken by purchaser within thirty (30) days of the sale at the offices of Seder & Chandler, LLP, 339 Main Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, attorneys for the Mortgagee.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation on the date and at the time and place appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation on the date and at the time and place appointed for the adjourned sale.

In the event of the failure or inability of the purchaser to perform and to purchase the Premises in accordance herewith, the Mortgagee reserves the right (but is not obligated) to accept, subject to the Memorandum of Sale, the second highest bid for the Premises, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons. In the event that the Mortgagee offers the Premises to the second highest bidder and such person declines either

to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price or to sign the Memorandum of Sale, then the Mortgagee may elect (but is not obligated) to exercise the rights of the second highest bidder under this paragraph and to purchase the Premises at the second highest bid price, without further advertisement and without further notice to other bidders or persons.

Other terms to be announced at the time and place of sale.

**SOUTHBIDGE
CREDIT UNION
Present holder of said
Mortgage**

Jennifer L. Conrad, Esq.
SEDER & CHANDLER, LLP
339 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 757-7721
Attorneys for the Mortgagee

THE ZEKOS GROUP
P.O. Box 549
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
(508)842-9000
Auctioneer, License No. 104
04/15, 04/22, 04/29/2021

**Town of Monson
Request for Bids
Hillside Cemetery Arch
Masonry Repair Project**

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and Town Hall being closed to the general public, the Town of Monson, MA will receive sealed bids through USPS, UPS, or FEDEX delivery for the **Hillside Cemetery Arch Masonry Repair Project** until **2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 7, 2021** at the Monson Selectmen's Office, 110 Main Street, Monson MA. Bids can also be dropped off physically at the Drop Off Box in front of the Monson Town Hall before the deadline. **At 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 7, 2021 bids will be opened publicly via Zoom at the following link:** <https://zoom.us/j/99262504874?pwd=RkhXMldNbDhGR2xsNVVZLlN-6NXZuUT09>

The work under the contract consists of masonry repairs to the cemetery's historic stone arch. The Hillside Cemetery Arch is located at the corners of Mill and Main Streets in Monson, MA and is available for public view. Bid Documents, including specifications for the proposed work, may be obtained after 9 a.m. on April 15, 2021. Plans and specifications will be available electronically to interested bidders via email request at dlaroche@monson-ma.gov.

Dan Laroche,
Monson Town Planner
04/15/2021

**TOWN OF PALMER
REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATIONS
FOR PARK DESIGN AT
HRYNIEWICZ PARK**

The Town of Palmer, through its Community Development Department, is seeking proposals for professional services for the design of Hryniewicz Park. The Park is located in the Village of Three Rivers in Palmer, along Springfield Street, Maple Street, and Front Street. The project will involve soliciting input from residents as to what types of features they wish to see at the Park, presenting several options to a park design committee for consideration, and preparing bid-ready plans and specifications. This contract will not exceed \$30,000. All work under this contract must be completed by August 30, 2021.

Proposals must be submitted no later than **Monday, May 3, 2021 at 12:00 PM**. The Town of Palmer reserves the sole

right to review the Proposals submitted, waive any irregularities therein, and to select or reject any or all submissions deemed by the Town of Palmer to be in its best interest.

For complete requirements for proposals, please contact Dakota at ddes-rochers@townofpalmer.com. 04/15, 04/22/2021

**2021
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF PALMER
ANNUAL MEETING
THREE RIVERS FIRE
DISTRICT**

Submitted to the voters of the Three Rivers Fire District at the Meeting to be held in the Fire Station on **May 4, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.**

To the voters of Three Rivers Fire District of the Town of Palmer:

Your Prudential Committee respectfully submits the following articles as recommended by the Finance Committee for your approval of the operations of the Fire District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

Chairman Ex Officio

Article 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2. To submit reports of the Treasurer, Prudential Committee, Fire Chief, Water Superintendent, and Special Committees and act on the same.

Article 3. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to pay the salaries of its officers and members of the Fire Department for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2021 or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends the sum of One Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Dollars (\$192,500.00) be raised and appropriated under this Article.

Article 4. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the salaries and expenses of the Fire District for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2021, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends the sum of Two Hundred Forty Two Thousand Dollars (\$241,000.00) be raised and appropriated under this Article.

Article 5. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Water Department to defray its expenses, through the use of its water receipts and revenues, for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2021, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Water Department be empowered to use its revenue and receipts to defray the expenses of Four Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$430,600.00).

Article 6. To see whether the District will vote to transfer any sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the Fiscal Year 2022 tax levy, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends indefinite postponement of this Article.

Article 7. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the Reserve Fund, or transfer any sum of money from Free Cash to the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred

Dollars (\$2,500.00) be raised and appropriated under this Article.

Article 8. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to purchase new Fire Department equipment, repair and or replace any parts of the present equipment or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends the sum of Twenty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000.00) to be raised and appropriated under this Article.

Article 9. To see whether the District will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money to be added to the Stabilization Account for Capital Expenditures in the Fire Department or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) be raised and appropriated under this article.

Article 10. To see whether the District will vote to transfer any sum of money from the Water Surplus Account to the Stabilization Account for Capital Improvements in the Water Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) be transferred from Water Surplus to the Stabilization Account for Capital Improvements in the Water Department under this Article.

Article 11. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money in anticipation of revenue for the Fiscal Year commencing on July 1, 2021 in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than (1) one year, in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 17, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends favorable action on this Article.

Article 12. To see whether the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Prudential Committee, to borrow money as permitted by law, to meet any appropriations or expenses incurred under any articles of this Warrant or take any actions thereto.

The Finance Committee recommends favorable action on this Article.

Article 13. To choose committees and give them instructions.

With no further business, do I hear a motion to dissolve this warrant?

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies in said District, twenty (20) days at least before the holding of said meeting, and publishing one not less than seven days preceding the date of the meeting in a newspaper published in Palmer.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Prudential Committee of the District at or before the holding of said meeting.

Given under this hand and seal May 2021.

Prudential Committee:
True Copy Attest by Official Seal

Norman Czech,
Chairman

Stephen R. Chiacchia,
Vice Chairman

Richard M. Pobieglo,
Clerk

04/15/2021

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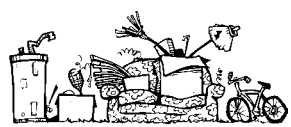
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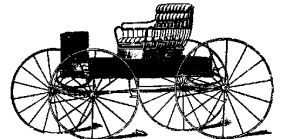
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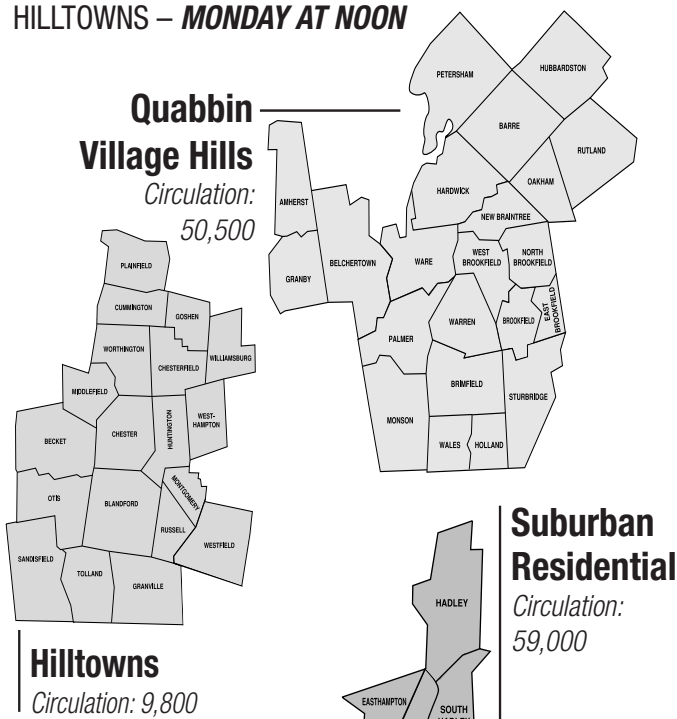
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Around the region

HCC spring play inspired by pandemic

'In These Times' a 'brilliant collage' of stories, music and art

HOLYOKE – Most theatrical productions begin with a script. "In These Times" began with a concept: ask students at Holyoke Community College to write first-person accounts of their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic; audition student- and alumni-actors to perform those stories; and complement the monologues with music and art contributed by other members of the HCC community. "It's interesting putting something like this together," said HCC theater professor Patricia Sandoval, the show's director. "You don't know what you're going to get." What she got and how it all fit together she calls a "brilliant collage." "This is going to be a really unique production," said Sandoval, "because we are incorporating so many art forms. It's a really wonderful showcase of what students have done throughout the pandemic. All of the writing and art is original and some of the music. All of it was inspired by these times, which is where the title comes from." Presented by the HCC Theater,



Lauren Bailey.

Music and Visual Art departments, "In These Times" opens on Thursday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m. The virtual show will be live-streamed on YouTube and performed again on Friday, April 16, and Saturday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. on April 17. The Friday night show will be ASL-interpreted. Performances are free and open to all. The show channel can be accessed through hcc.edu/times-show. The shows will not be recorded for later viewing. "This will be live," said Sandoval. "It's really meant to be experienced in real time, with a real audience, even though the audience

is watching remotely." The cast includes 18 student- and alumni-actors performing 40 different monologues that run one to four minutes apiece during the 90-minute show. Each actor will perform from their homes in front of their computers, with the video segments stitched together remotely in real time by streaming coach and HCC theater alumnus Corey Missildine, who performed the same role during HCC's fall 2020 production, an original, live-streamed play called "Fatal Fisticuffs." "What's beautiful about these monologues is that they represent the diversity of the college, whatever that can be defined as," Sandoval



Mikey Perez.

said. "Age, race, ethnicity - we've got everything represented in this production because that's what HCC is." Eight student and alumni musicians pre-recorded performances for the show. That includes three original compositions: "Covid Suite," a multimedia, electronic piece by student Jim Gipe; "Nero (Live in the Time of Corona)," by student Elena Ciampa (piano and vocals) and "When," by HCC alumna Luci Mino '18 (ukulele and vocals). "The other musical performances aren't originals, and aren't necessarily related to the theme of the show," said Elissa Brill Paskin, chair of the HCC Music Department,

"but they are in terms of how the performances were put together. Just the fact that people are performing alone, in their homes instead of with others on a stage and often accompanying or backing up themselves, really speaks to the way we are all finding ways to make music during these times." Approximately 45 students and alumni contributed artwork that will be used to bind each of the monologues together on screen. "The artwork is at times a direct response to specific moments or events of this past year," said Felice Caivano, chair of the HCC Visual Art Department. "For example, alumna Isabella Dellolio's photographs document friends wearing

masks. Alumni David Czupryna, Samary Ramos, and Jamie Capps, among many student artists, present poetic interpretations of the times we have been living through while others created work abstract in nature providing an image of beauty that we can all use right now. This collaborative project has the potential to give the viewer pause to contemplate these times at many levels." All the script submissions came from student work assigned last fall by professors in their HCC classes. "The writing has exposed all the issues that are relevant across the globe," said Sandoval. "Mental health. Loneliness. Isolation. Remote learning. Fear. But the writing also shows HCC students as being resilient, hopeful, optimistic, and self-reliant. That all comes through, and it's beautiful." IF YOU GO: "In These Times" Directed by Patricia Sandoval April 15-17, 7:30 p.m. April 17, 2 p.m. hcc.edu/times-show In lieu of ticket sales, viewers are asked to consider making a donation to the HCC Leslie Phillips Fund for Theater Arts and Education at: hcc.edu/give

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STCC dental hygiene student Lauren Willhoite of Southamptn works with a patient at the dental hygiene clinic on the STCC campus. Courtesy photo.

STCC Dental Hygiene Clinic extends free treatment through April

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College's Dental Hygiene Clinic will continue to offer free preventative treatment for children and adults through April. The clinic on the campus of STCC started offering free treatment in February. STCC usually charges a nominal fee for services, but the college decided to waive fees to help the community, many of whom are facing financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the direction of licensed dental hygienists and dentists, STCC dental hygiene students treat patients at the clinic. They provide a range of services, including scaling and prophylaxis (teeth cleaning), X-rays if needed, fluoride treatments and dental sealants for children. The clinic, which is open Monday through Friday, is accepting appointments starting at 8 a.m. The clinic closes at 4 p.m. Dental hygiene student Lauren Willhoite of Southamptn said the clinic presents an opportunity for her to get experience and to help the community. "Patients don't need insurance to get a cleaning here, so a lot of patients who can't see the dentist because it's too expensive or they can't get insurance can come see us. It's a lot more affordable here, and our doctors are great," Willhoite said. The clinic adheres to strict safety guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. The college has temporarily suspended any aerosol generating procedures (namely, ultrasonic scalers and polishing teeth) from treatment options. In certain cases, under direction of a faculty member, such treatment might be allowed using devices that eliminate 93 percent of aerosols. The college has limited the number of people who can gather in the clinic and labs to allow for social distancing. Both students and faculty wear masks and face shields. All dental hygiene students, faculty and staff are scheduling appointments to be vaccinated. Anyone who enters Building 20, where the clinic is located, must complete an attestation form and answer questions about any recent travel outside of Massachusetts and if they have experienced any symptoms related to COVID-19 or have been exposed to anyone experiencing symptoms. Staff also will check temperatures of people entering the building. To schedule an appointment, call (413) 755-4900. For more information, visit stcc.edu/dental. Watch a video about the clinic at stcc.io/dental.